# MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
# THE MIGHTY THOR®
## VOLUME 10

**THE MIGHTY THOR** Nos. 184-194

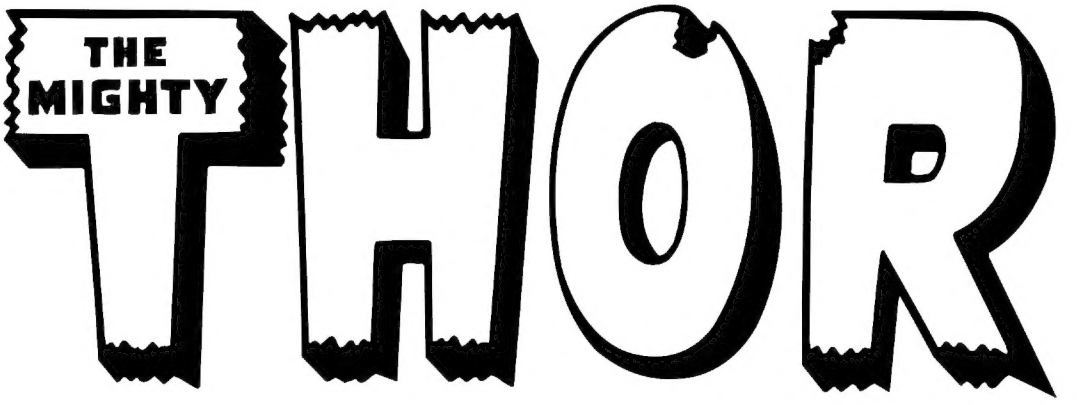
STAN LEE & JOHN BUSCEMA

WITH GERRY CONWAY

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS




VOLUME 10

COLLECTING

THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 184-194

STAN LEE • JOHN BUSCEMA

WITH GERRY CONWAY

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# MARVEL MASTERWORKS
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THE
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Nos. 184-194

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# MARVEL MASTERWORKS

## CONTENTS


Introduction by Stan Lee

*The Mighty Thor #184, January 1971*
"The World Beyond!"

*The Mighty Thor #185, February 1971*
"In the Grip of Infinity!"

*The Mighty Thor #186, March 1971*
"Worlds at War!"

*The Mighty Thor #187, April 1971*
"The World is Lost!"

*The Mighty Thor #188, May 1971*
"The End of Infinity!"

*The Mighty Thor #189, June 1971*
"The Icy Touch of Death!"

*The Mighty Thor #190, July 1971*
"--And So, to Die!"

*The Mighty Thor #191, August 1971*
"A Time of Evil!"

*The Mighty Thor #192, September 1971*
"Conflagration!"

*The Mighty Thor #193, November 1971*
"What Power Unleashed?"

*The Mighty Thor #194, December 1971*
"The Fatal Fury!"

# INTRODUCTION
## BY STAN LEE

Hi, Fellow Asgardians!

There's no way I can possibly pen this intro without extolling the artistic genius of its incredible illustrator, John Buscema.

Oh, I'll admit my stories weren't all that bad and the two by Gerry Conway that wrap up this collection are pretty good, too—but for sheer heart-pounding spectacle and eye-popping grandeur you just can't get past the artistry of Big John's awesome illustrations.

However, I guess there's really no need to dwell upon how great John's artwork is because you'll soon be drooling over it yourself. It's just that I hadn't seen these pages for a number of years and when I had a chance to look 'em over it was one of my greatest, most satisfying moments of rediscovery!

But let's talk about you. You happen to be doubly lucky! Not only do you have great artwork to boggle your mind but these stories will carry you along with all the power and excitement of a soaring rocket. If I do, modestly, say so myself.

Remember, I'm in a good position to judge. I haven't read these stories for decades, so when I eagerly perused each page, it was as though I was reading it for the first time! And y'know something? I couldn't put 'em down till I had finished the last panel.

Y'know, of all the many series I've written, Thor always had the most spectacle, the most scope. It was far and away the most epic series of all. And how could it not be? It dealt with Odin, the most powerful being of all, and with his sons, the mighty Thor and the evil Loki. It took place in Asgard, home of the Norse gods—and also home of some of the deadliest, most evil, most powerful beings in all of myth and literature. All we at Marvel had to do was shake all the ingredients together and the result was a pandemonius potpourri of more excitement and wonder than you could shake a stick at. Not that you go around shaking sticks at things, but you get my drift.

If you think about it, the Thor series is really a family story. We have the father, Odin, and his two sons, Thor and Loki. We have Thor's fiancée, Sif and all of their friends, like Balder and Heimdall and Volstagg, etc. Then we have pesty neighbors, such as the Storm Giants. The only thing that stops it from being a children's bedtime story is the fact that the bad guys, led by Loki, are always trying to kill all the good guys, destroy Asgard and the Earth and take over the entire universe, but hey, you knew all that.

Wouldja believe that issues 193 and 194 marked the first time John Buscema had drawn the Silver Surfer since he and I did the Surfer's series, which ended in 1970? Just as the great Jack Kirby had done before him, John was able to imbue the bigger-than-life characters in the Thor series with all the strength, majesty and high drama that are so much a part of this ever-popular, never-duplicated series.

I would have loved to stay with Thor and continue writing the stories till they had to drag me kicking and screaming off the strip. But such was not to be my fate. At about the time

I was really sinking my teeth into it, I assumed new duties at Marvel and didn't have time to write as many comics as I'd done before. But I was lucky that Gerry Conway was on the scene and able to step in as scripter after issue 192—even though it meant I couldn't have this whole *Masterworks* volume to myself.

But let's talk about the books themselves. You'll start off meeting one of the most mysterious characters in all of Marveldom—the Silent One. It's hard to tell if he's a good guy or villain. But if Thor guesses wrong, it may mean goodbye to the Universe!

Remember Hela, Goddess of Death? Well, she figures in importantly, mainly because Thor has to battle her. How do you battle Death herself? You'll find out on the pages ahead.

Then we're caught up in the secret of the World Beyond. But poor Thor! If he solves that secret, then Infinity must win!

As you know, if Thor surrenders to Hela it means he dies. But if he doesn't, many innocents will perish. What's a Thunder God to do?

However, since he's the hero, Thor triumphs at last—but that means Hela, Goddess of Death, must take him! Some victory, huh?

Whew! You can finally relax. Thor finds a way out. But—while Odin rules and the lovely Sif does her bit to save the day, Loki is about to destroy the Earth! (We don't give the good guys time to catch their breath!)

Then, in case you thought things were too easy for Thor, he next must fight Loki, Karnilla and Durok the Demolisher! We always tried to keep our favorite hammer-slinger from being bored.

And now, here he comes, the one you've been waiting for—our silver-skinned sentinel of the skyways! You sure do get your money's worth in this section, featuring the Silver Surfer, Duurok, Loki and the Storm Giants.

In the last story of our book, Loki seems to be triumphant! Asgard is about to fall! But don't blame me. Gerry's the guy who wrote it!

Well, there's lots more I could say about my favorite characters and the great John Buscema who depicted them so magnificently, but I really shouldn't keep you a minute longer from all the good stuff waiting on the pages ahead. So let me just close by saying—

Asgard Forever!

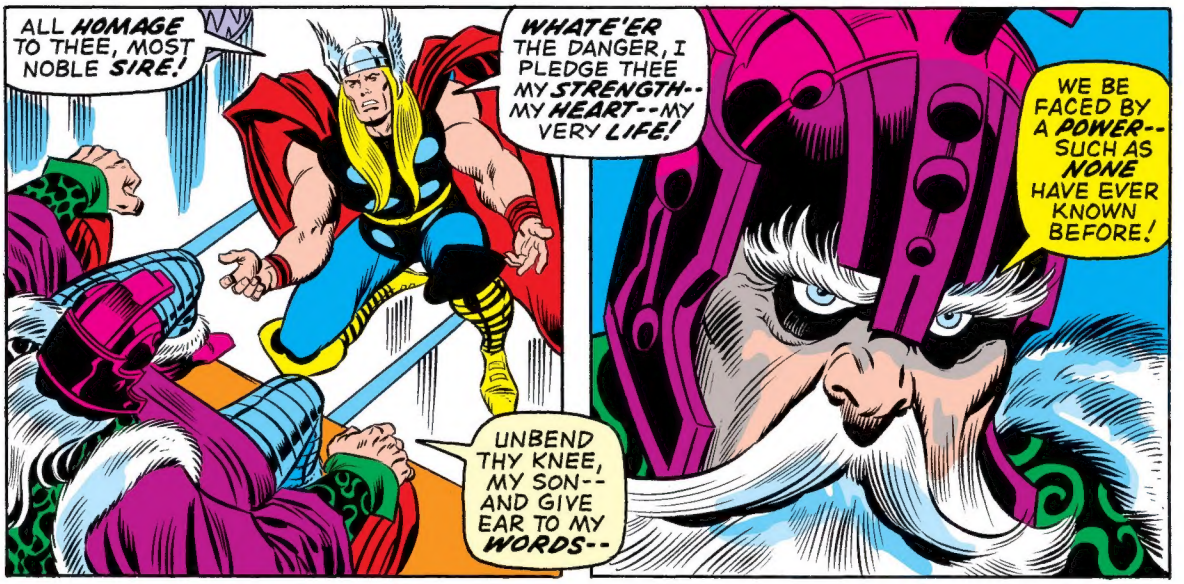
EXCELSIOR!

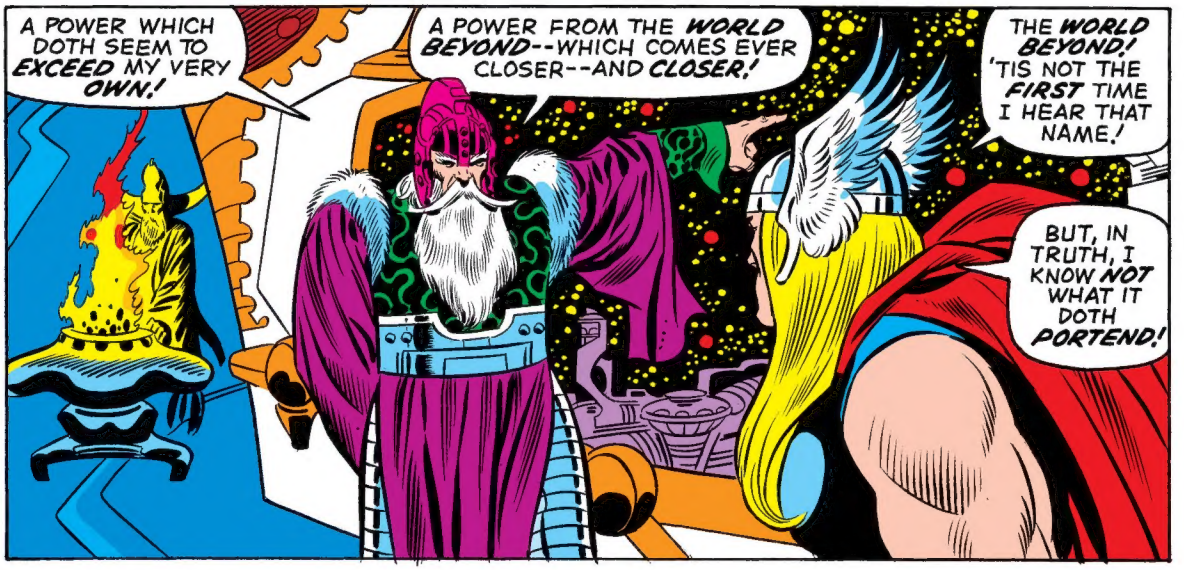
**2010**

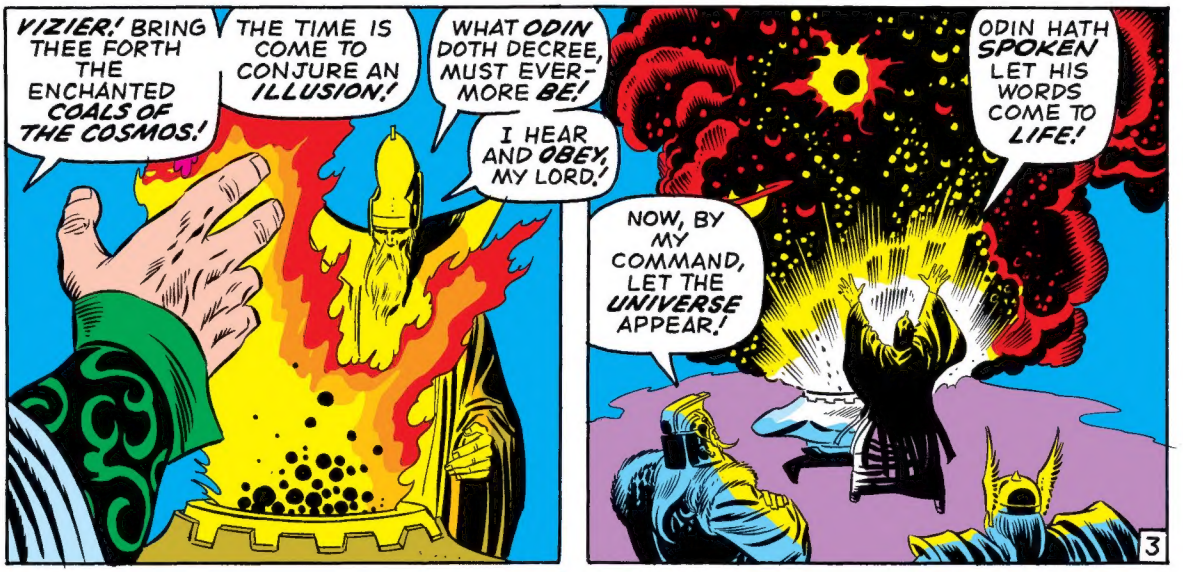
THOR
15¢
184
JAN
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IS THIS THE WAY THE WORLD WILL END?
INTRODUCING: THE SENSATIONAL SILENT ONE!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE MIGHTY THOR!
THE WORLD BEYOND!
IMPERIAL ODIN HATH SUMMONED ME-- FOR DREAD DANGER DOTH THREATEN THE REALM!
AND, AS I BE PRINCE OF THE REALM-- AS I BE FLESH OF HIS FLESH--
--WHEN THE ALL-FATHER COMMANDS --THE THUNDER GOD OBEYS!
BEHOLD THE FIGURE OF A WARRIOR-- RIPPLING WITH STRENGTH--THROBBING WITH POWER--GRIM-VISAGED AND PROUD! BEHOLD THE RIGHTFUL SON AND HEIR OF ALMIGHTY ODIN! BEHOLD OUR HERO-- THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER!
by: STAN LEE AND JOHN BUSCEMA
JOE SINNOTT, INKER
ART SIMEK, LETTERER
INTRODUCING: THE MYSTERIOUS SILENT ONE
--AND OUR FIRST MENTION OF-- THE UNMENTIONABLE!

WHERE'ER I LOOK, ALL MEN'S EYES ARE TURNED FEARFULLY SKYWARD!
NE'ER HAVE I BEHELD SUCH ABJECT TERROR ON ASGARDIAN FACES!
EACH HEARTBEAT BRINGS THE DANGER STILL CLOSER!
AND THERE IS NONE--NONE--TO STOP IT!
WHAT DIRE MENACE DOTH HANG LIKE A CLOUD O'ER THE ETERNAL REALM?
THE THUNDER GOD! O, THE PITY--THAT THOU HATH RETURNED --TOO LATE!
TOO LATE--FOR WHAT?
'TIS OF NO AVAIL!
THEIR TONGUES ARE SO NUMBED BY FEAR THAT THEY CAN BARELY SPEAK!
BUT REGAL ODIN SHALL PROVIDE THE ANSWER!
THERE DOTH HE SIT, IN THE CHAMBER ROYAL, WHERE--
FATHER! THOU TOO? THOU TOO ART ENGULFED BY DEEPEST DESPAIR?
AT LAST THOU ART HERE, MY SON!
APPROACH THEE THE PRESENCE--AND PREPARE THINE EARS--FOR--TIDINGS MOST GRIM!
2


ALL HOMAGE TO THEE, MOST NOBLE SIRE!
WHATE'ER THE DANGER, I PLEDGE THEE MY STRENGTH--MY HEART--MY VERY LIFE!
WE BE FACED BY A POWER--SUCH AS NONE HAVE EVER KNOWN BEFORE!
UNBEND THY KNEE, MY SON--AND GIVE EAR TO MY WORDS--

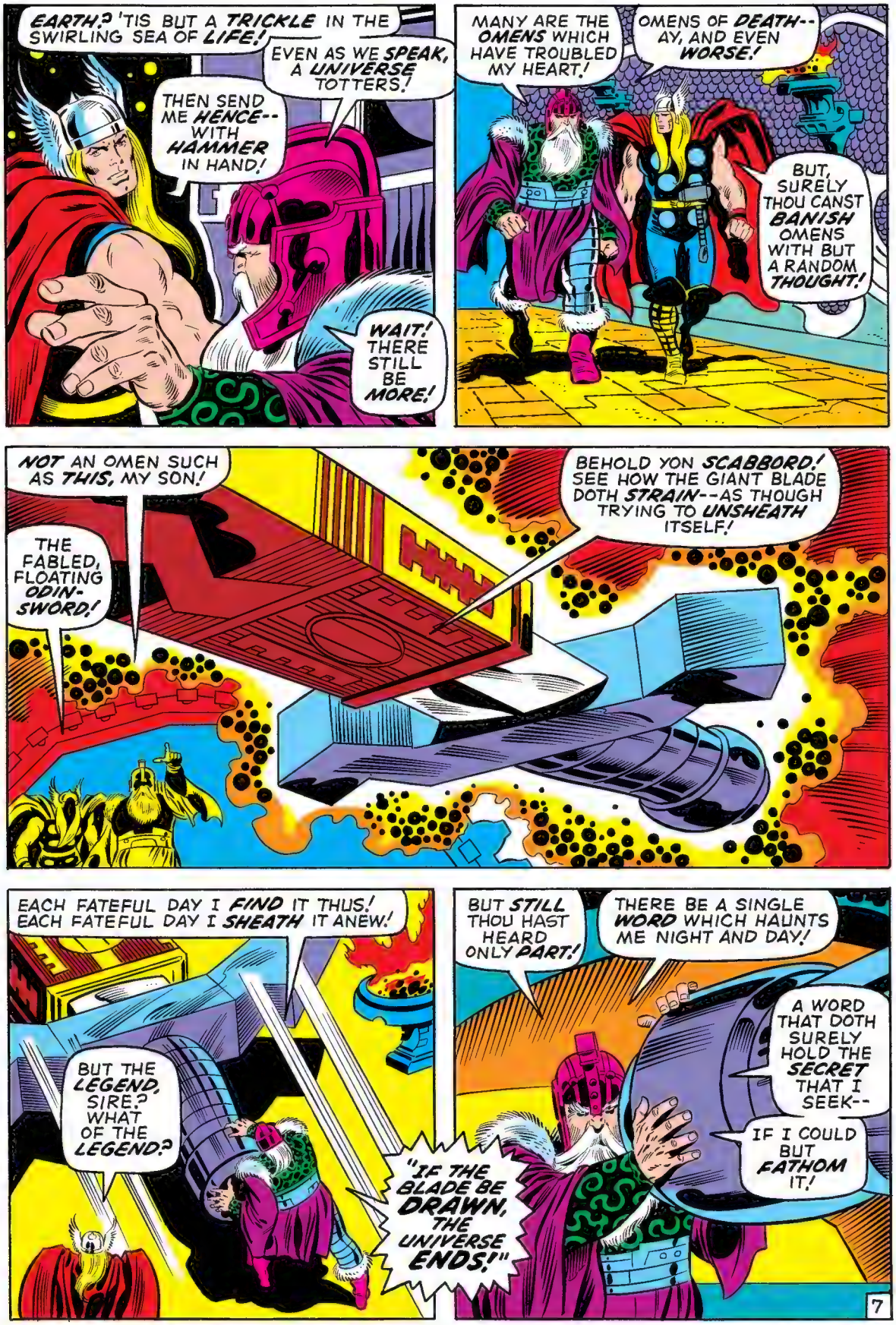

A POWER WHICH DOTH SEEM TO EXCEED MY VERY OWN!
A POWER FROM THE WORLD BEYOND--WHICH COMES EVER CLOSER--AND CLOSER!
THE WORLD BEYOND! 'TIS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HEAR THAT NAME!
BUT, IN TRUTH, I KNOW NOT WHAT IT DOTH PORTEND!

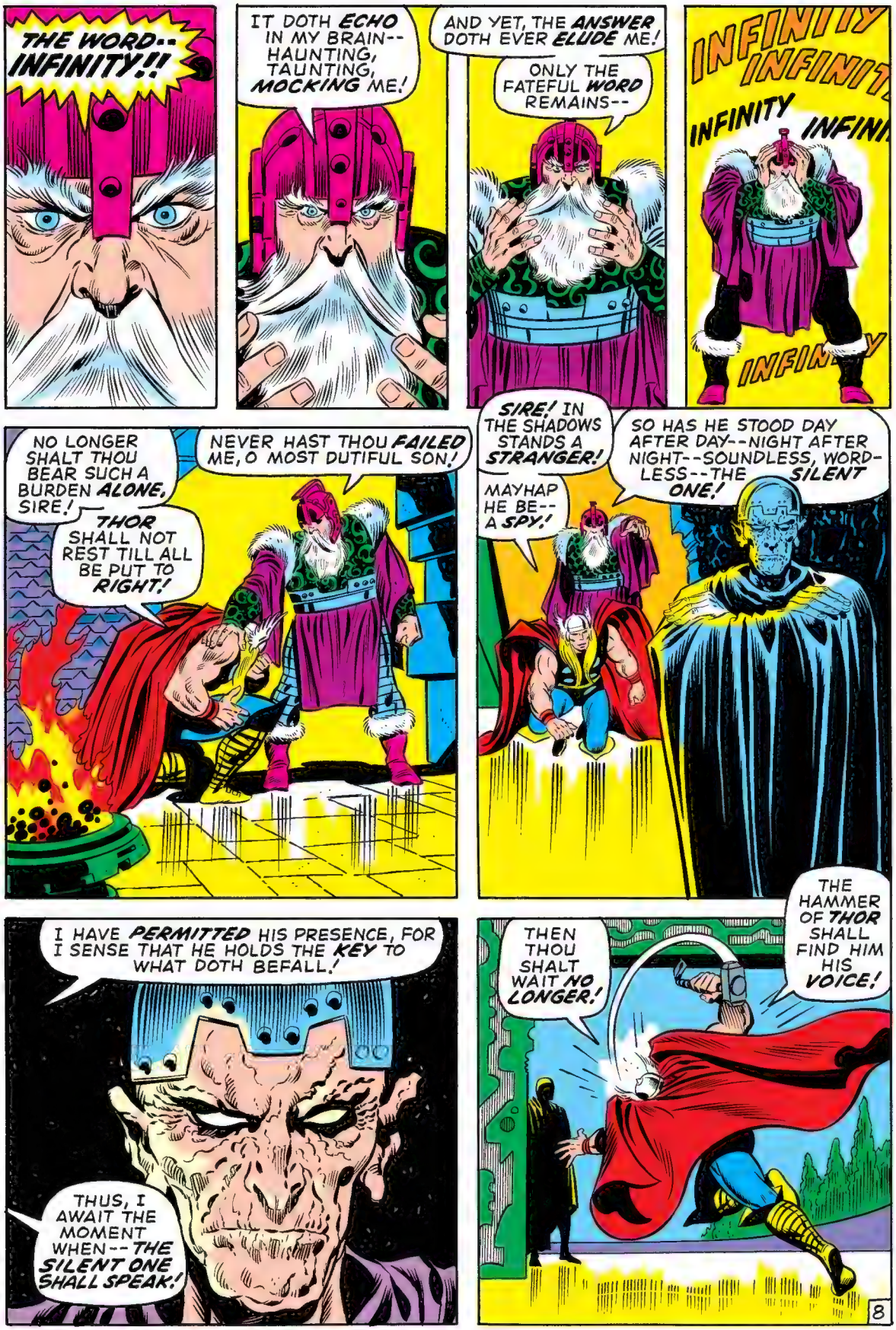

VIZIER! BRING THEE FORTH THE ENCHANTED COALS OF THE COSMOS!
THE TIME IS COME TO CONJURE AN ILLUSION!
WHAT ODIN DOTH DECREE, MUST EVERMORE BE!
I HEAR AND OBEY, MY LORD!
ODIN HATH SPOKEN LET HIS WORDS COME TO LIFE!
NOW, BY MY COMMAND, LET THE UNIVERSE APPEAR!
3

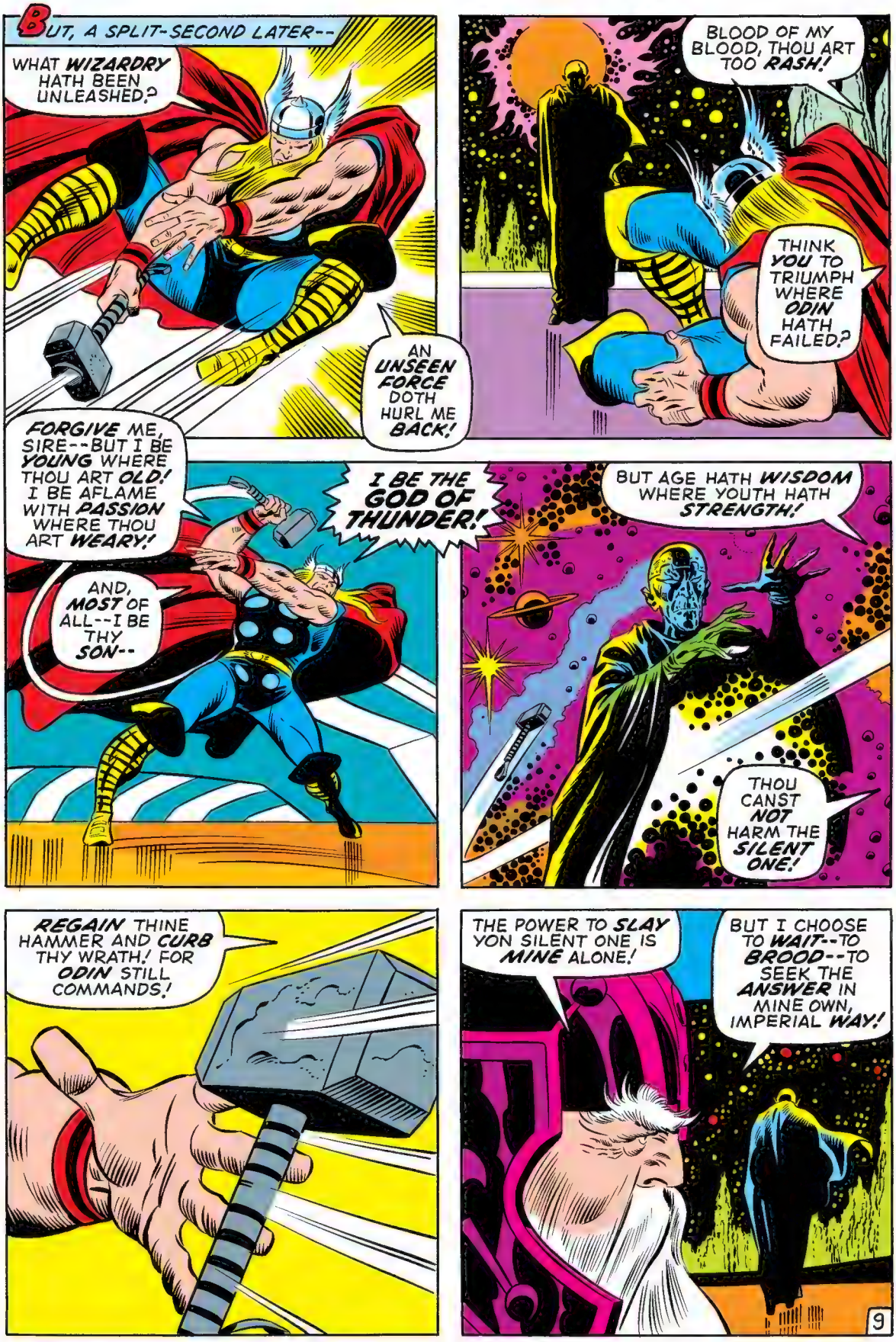
FATHER! THE MISTS AND THE SMOKE DO ENGULF US!
SO BE IT! THE ILLUSION HATH BEGUN!
'TIS THE ENCHANTMENT OF THE COSMIC COALS--
--MAKING THEE--AND ME--AND THE UNIVERSE--ONE!
NOW STAND WE--IN SPIRIT--WHERE NONE HAVE STOOD BEFORE!
MY LIEGE--MINE EYES BEHOLD A PLACE WHERE NO WORLDS EXIST!
'TIS AS THOUGH A GIANT HAND HATH TORN AWAY THE FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE!
AY, MY SON--AND IT DOTH COME FROM--THE WORLD BEYOND!
SLOWLY, BUT UNCEASINGLY, THE PLANETS WHICH SPIN AT THE OUTERMOST END OF THE UNIVERSE HAVE VANISHED--ONE BY ONE!
AND SO, THE WORLD BEYOND COMES CLOSER--CLOSER--
IF IT BE UNCHECKED--'TWILL MEAN THE END OF ALL LIFE--THE END OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!
NAUGHT WILL REMAIN! NOT E'EN THE MEMORY OF THE GLORY OF ASGARD!
WHY STAND WE HERE? WE MUST ACT! WE MUST FIGHT!
4

FIGHT.? FIGHT WHOM.? FIGHT WHERE.?
WHILST THOU WERT GONE, I DID DISPATCH HOGUN, FANDRAL, AND THE VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG TO PROBE THE GRIM SECRET OF THE WORLD BEYOND!
THREE OF ASGARD'S FINEST--BOLDEST--MOST DARING--
--AY, AND THREE WHO WERE NEVER TO RETURN!
FATHER! MY BLOOD DOTH BOIL! THEY MUST BE AVENGED!
SO MONSTROUS A DEED MUST BE--CAN ONLY BE--THE DOING OF GIGANTIC GALACTUS!
HAST THOU FORGOT THOU SPEAKEST TO ODIN, THE ALL-WISE.?
THINKEST THOU THAT I WHO AM THE POWER, AND THE WILL, AND THE WAY--I WOULD NOT HAVE FOUND GALACTUS, OR ANY OTHER THOU HAST KNOWN?
E'EN AS WE SPEAK, GALACTUS DOTH LIE IN SATED REPOSE--HIS DEADLY APPETITE ABATED FOR MANY MONTHS TO COME!
--WHILST THE MONSTROUS MANGOG IS NO MORE--LIVING ONLY IN THE MEMORY OF A BILLION, BILLION BEINGS!
THEN WHAT OF LOKI, FATHER.? WHAT OF THE MERCILESS PRINCE OF EVIL.?
5

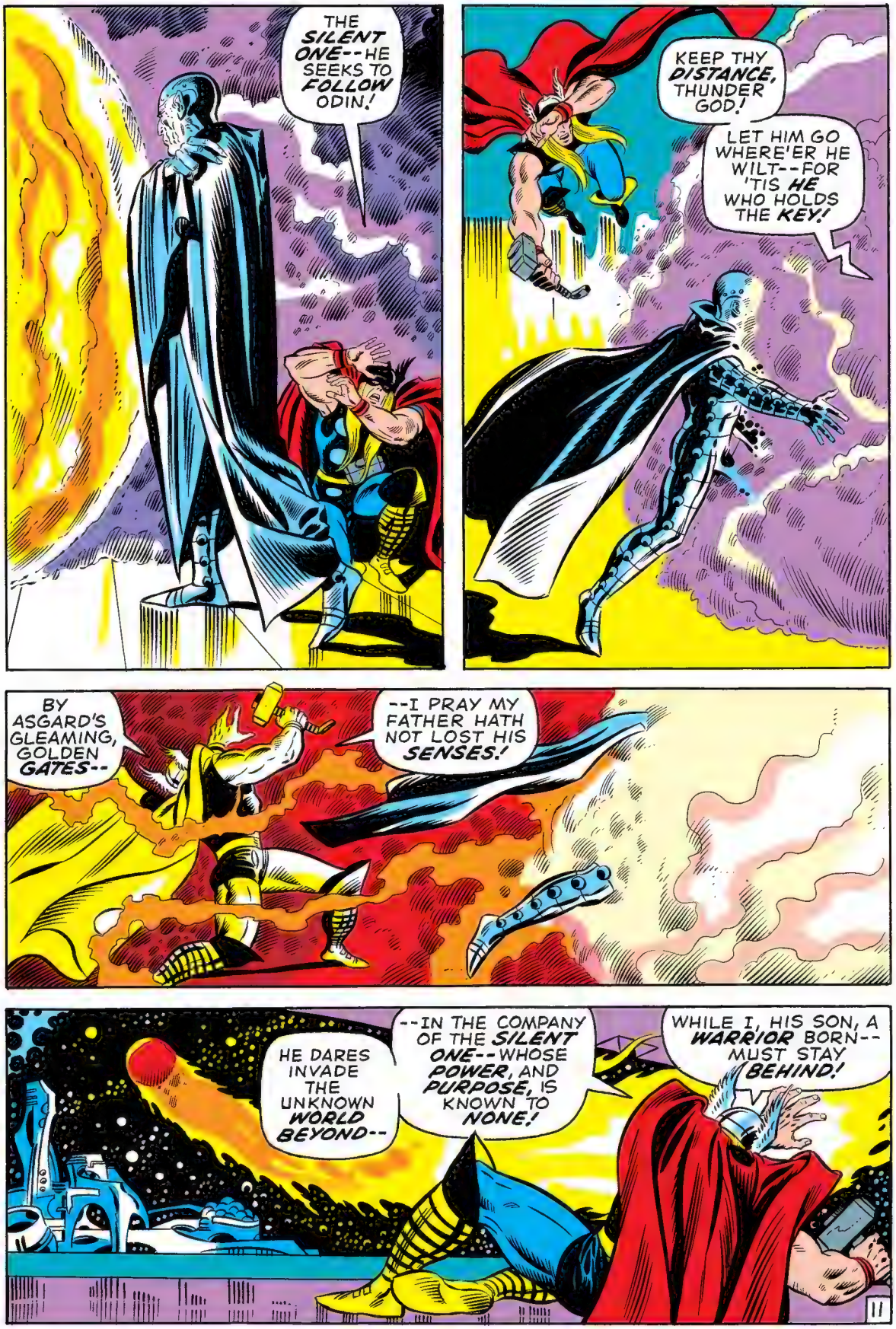
LOKI TOO REMAINS UPON THE PRIMITIVE WORLD WHEREIN HE PAYS THE PENALTY FOR HIS PAST TREASONS AND BASE BETRAYAL!
IN TRUTH, THERE BE NONE KNOWN TO ODIN--NONE IN ALL THE VAST UNIVERSE--'PON WHICH TO POINT THE REGAL FINGER OF SUSPICION!
MOST HONORED SIRE--IF I BE IMPERTINENT, I BEG THINE IMPERIAL FORGIVENESS--BUT STILL I MUST ASK--
CAN THERE BE A WORLD--A MENACE UNKNOWN EVEN TO THEE?
ALAS, THERE BE ONE--HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN THE WORLD BEYOND!
ONE WHICH THREATENS TO DESTROY--THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE!
THEN EARTH, AS WELL, WILL BE NO MORE!
THOUGH IT HOUSE GREED, AND VIOLENCE--HATRED, AND WRATH--IT MUST NOT PERISH!
FOR, 'NEATH THE MISERY AND FEAR--THERE BE MUCH GOOD--THERE BE A SPARK WHICH MUST NOT DIE!
EARTH--FORE'ER HELD DEAR WITHIN THE HEART OF THOR!

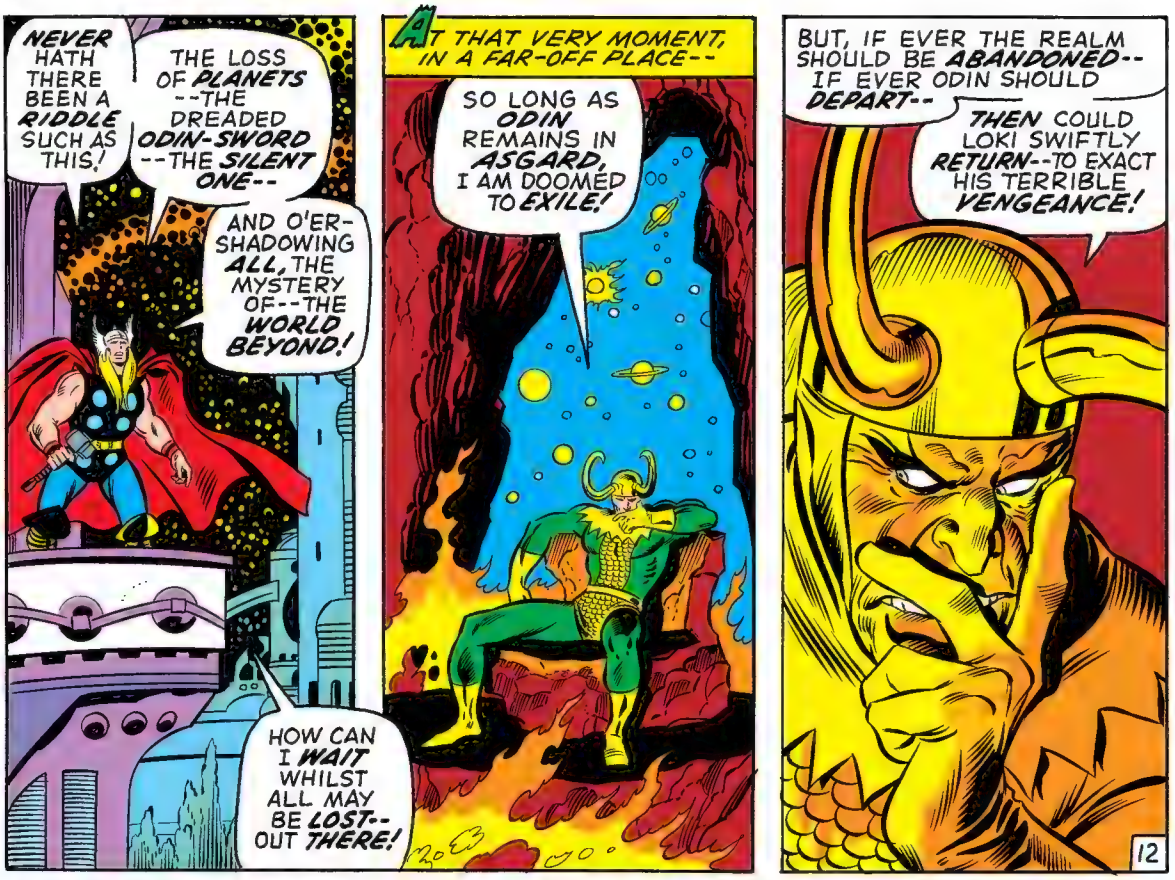

EARTH? 'TIS BUT A TRICKLE IN THE SWIRLING SEA OF LIFE!
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, A UNIVERSE TOTTERS!
THEN SEND ME HENCE--WITH HAMMER IN HAND!
WAIT! THERE STILL BE MORE!
MANY ARE THE OMENS WHICH HAVE TROUBLED MY HEART!
OMENS OF DEATH--AY, AND EVEN WORSE!
BUT, SURELY THOU CANST BANISH OMENS WITH BUT A RANDOM THOUGHT!
NOT AN OMEN SUCH AS THIS, MY SON!
THE FABLED, FLOATING ODIN-SWORD!
BEHOLD YON SCABBORD! SEE HOW THE GIANT BLADE DOTH STRAIN--AS THOUGH TRYING TO UNSHEATH ITSELF!
EACH FATEFUL DAY I FIND IT THUS! EACH FATEFUL DAY I SHEATH IT ANEW!
BUT THE LEGEND, SIRE? WHAT OF THE LEGEND?
"IF THE BLADE BE DRAWN, THE UNIVERSE ENDS!"
BUT STILL THOU HAST HEARD ONLY PART!
THERE BE A SINGLE WORD WHICH HAUNTS ME NIGHT AND DAY!
A WORD THAT DOTH SURELY HOLD THE SECRET THAT I SEEK--
IF I COULD BUT FATHOM IT!

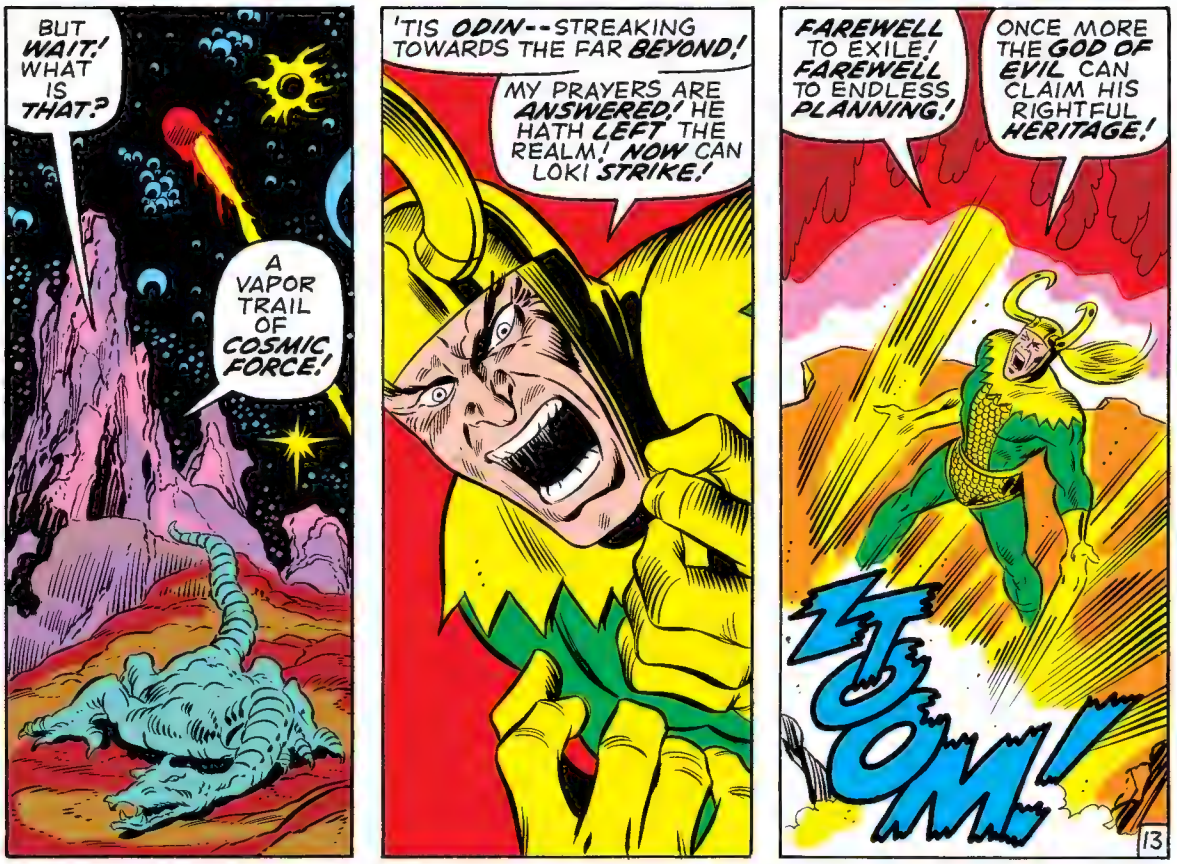

THE WORD-- INFINITY!!
IT DOTH ECHO IN MY BRAIN-- HAUNTING, TAUNTING, MOCKING ME!
AND YET, THE ANSWER DOTH EVER ELUDE ME!
ONLY THE FATEFUL WORD REMAINS--
INFINITY
INFINITY
NO LONGER SHALT THOU BEAR SUCH A BURDEN ALONE, SIRE!
NEVER HAST THOU FAILED ME, O MOST DUTIFUL SON!
THOR SHALL NOT REST TILL ALL BE PUT TO RIGHT!
SIRE! IN THE SHADOWS STANDS A STRANGER!
MAYHAP HE BE-- A SPY!
SO HAS HE STOOD DAY AFTER DAY--NIGHT AFTER NIGHT--SOUNDLESS, WORDLESS--THE SILENT ONE!
I HAVE PERMITTED HIS PRESENCE, FOR I SENSE THAT HE HOLDS THE KEY TO WHAT DOTH BEFALL!
THUS, I AWAIT THE MOMENT WHEN--THE SILENT ONE SHALL SPEAK!
THEN THOU SHALT WAIT NO LONGER!
THE HAMMER OF THOR SHALL FIND HIM HIS VOICE!
8


BUT, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER--
WHAT WIZARDRY HATH BEEN UNLEASHED?
AN UNSEEN FORCE DOTH HURL ME BACK!
BLOOD OF MY BLOOD, THOU ART TOO RASH!
THINK YOU TO TRIUMPH WHERE ODIN HATH FAILED?
FORGIVE ME, SIRE--BUT I BE YOUNG WHERE THOU ART OLD! I BE AFLAME WITH PASSION WHERE THOU ART WEARY!
AND, MOST OF ALL--I BE THY SON--
I BE THE GOD OF THUNDER!
BUT AGE HATH WISDOM WHERE YOUTH HATH STRENGTH!
THOU CANST NOT HARM THE SILENT ONE!
REGAIN THINE HAMMER AND CURB THY WRATH! FOR ODIN STILL COMMANDS!
THE POWER TO SLAY YON SILENT ONE IS MINE ALONE!
BUT I CHOOSE TO WAIT--TO BROOD--TO SEEK THE ANSWER IN MINE OWN, IMPERIAL WAY!

AND NOW, THERE BE NO MORE TO TELL!
I LEAVE THEE IN MY PLACE, MY SON--WHILST I GO FORTH--TO PROBE THE WORLD BEYOND!
FATHER, NO! I SAY THEE NAY!!
'TIS THOU WHO ART THE BE-ALL, AND THE END-ALL! IF THERE BE DANGER, 'TIS THOR WHO MUST GO FORTH!
WHAT?!! DAREST THOU QUESTION THE WILL OF ODIN?!!
WHEN THE ALL-FATHER SPEAKS--THERE BE NONE TO TELL HIM NAY!
REMAIN, MY SON--AND GUARD THE REALM!
I GO WHERE I HAVE NEVER GONE--TO BEHOLD WHAT I HAVE NEVER SEEN!
AND, IF I FALL--THEN THOU SHALT FOLLOW AFTER ME!
I GO TO SAVE A UNIVERSE--FROM THE WORLD BEYOND!
10


THE SILENT ONE--HE SEEKS TO FOLLOW ODIN!
KEEP THY DISTANCE, THUNDER GOD!
LET HIM GO WHERE'ER HE WILT--FOR 'TIS HE WHO HOLDS THE KEY!
BY ASGARD'S GLEAMING, GOLDEN GATES--
--I PRAY MY FATHER HATH NOT LOST HIS SENSES!
HE DARES INVADE THE UNKNOWN WORLD BEYOND--
--IN THE COMPANY OF THE SILENT ONE--WHOSE POWER, AND PURPOSE, IS KNOWN TO NONE!
WHILE I, HIS SON, A WARRIOR BORN--MUST STAY BEHIND!
11


NEVER HATH THERE BEEN A RIDDLE SUCH AS THIS!
THE LOSS OF PLANETS --THE DREADED ODIN-SWORD --THE SILENT ONE--
AND O'ER-SHADOWING ALL, THE MYSTERY OF--THE WORLD BEYOND!
HOW CAN I WAIT WHILST ALL MAY BE LOST-- OUT THERE!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A FAR-OFF PLACE--
SO LONG AS ODIN REMAINS IN ASGARD, I AM DOOMED TO EXILE!
BUT, IF EVER THE REALM SHOULD BE ABANDONED-- IF EVER ODIN SHOULD DEPART--
THEN COULD LOKI SWIFTLY RETURN--TO EXACT HIS TERRIBLE VENGEANCE!
12


BUT WAIT! WHAT IS THAT?
A VAPOR TRAIL OF COSMIC FORCE!
'TIS ODIN--STREAKING TOWARDS THE FAR BEYOND!
MY PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED! HE HATH LEFT THE REALM! NOW CAN LOKI STRIKE!
FAREWELL TO EXILE! FAREWELL TO ENDLESS PLANNING!
ONCE MORE THE GOD OF EVIL CAN CLAIM HIS RIGHTFUL HERITAGE!
ZOOM!
13

THIS TIME, NOT EVEN THOR MUST FOIL MY PLANS!
THIS TIME LOKI WILL HAVE INVINCIBLE ALLIES!
THUS DO I ENTER THE LAND OF--THE STORM GIANTS!
YOU HAVE FOUND AN ASGARDIAN! SLAY HIM! SLAY HIM!
STOP! I AM LOKI! DO YOU NOT REMEMBER? I AM YOUR ALLY!
IT IS THE EVIL GODLING!
THE TIME IS COME TO CONQUER ASGARD!
AND I AM HERE TO LEAD YOU!
BUT WHAT OF THE ACCURSED ODIN?
ODIN IS GONE! WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
ONWARD!
DEATH TO ASGARD!
THE ETERNAL REALM WILL FALL AT LAST!

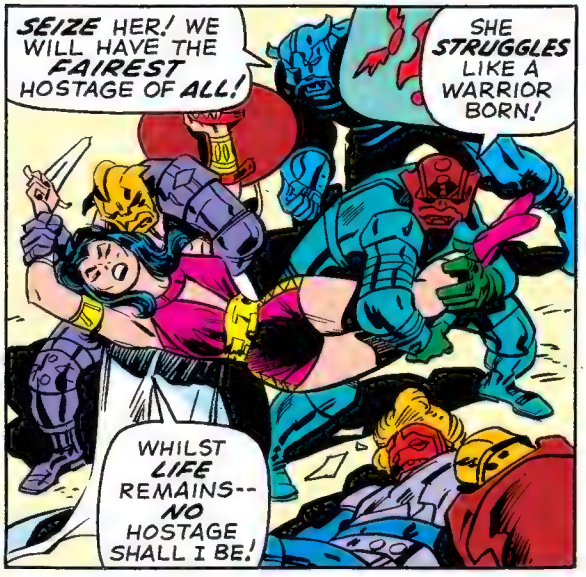
LATER--
NOT EVEN STEEL CAN SAVE US FROM THE WORLD BEYOND!
THOU MUST HAVE FAITH-- IN LORDLY ODIN!
BUT STAY! A RUNNER DOTH APPROACH!
THE TRAITOROUS LOKI HATH RETURNED-- LEADING A HORDE OF TROLLS AND GIANTS!
BUT-- THAT IS NOT THE WORST OF IT--
HE HATH CAPTURED VALIANT BALDER--AND DOTH HOLD HIM AS A HOSTAGE!
IF YOU DARE TO CHALLENGE THEM--HIS LIFE SHALL BE THE FORFEIT!
O, MOST UNSPEAKABLE VILLAINY!
MY MERCILESS BROTHER DOTH STAB THE REALM IN OUR HOUR OF GRAVEST PERIL!
BUT LOKI SHALL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!!
I SEE HIM NOW--WITH TROLLS AND GIANTS ASSEMBLED!
COME NO CLOSER, BROTHER--LEST THE CAPTIVE BALDER DIE!
WHERE IS HE? I WOULD BEHOLD MY NOBLE FRIEND!
15

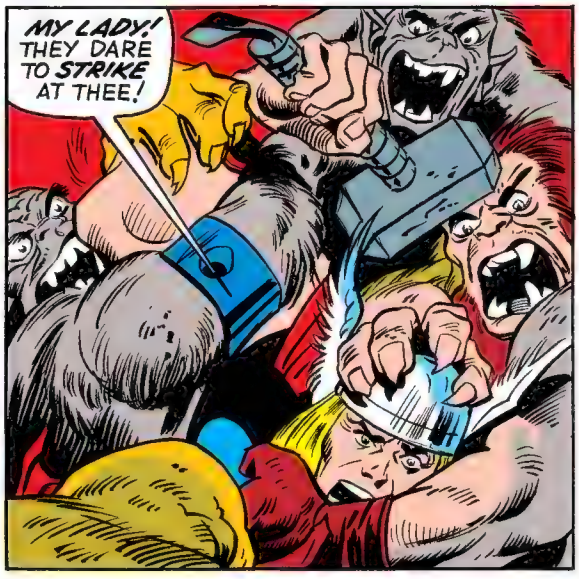
WE SEIZED HIM WHILST HE SLEPT--ERE HE COULDST DRAW HIS BLADE!
NOW, BROTHER--HEAR MY TERMS--!
I SAY THEE NAY, BASE VILLAIN!
MIGHTY MJOLNIR SHALL SET HIM FREE!
YOU CANNOT THREATEN US, ASGARDIAN! I'LL CLEAVE YOU LIKE A WORM!
BLYOWNG!
FOR ASGARD!
THE GIANT HAS FALLEN!
LET THE TROLLS ATTACK!
16

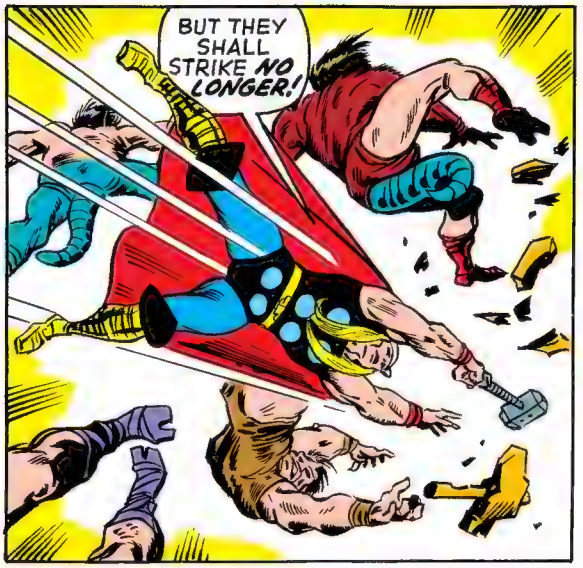
HURRY! HURRY! ERE HIS HAMMER CAN RETURN TO HIM!
EVEN HIS FISTS ARE MIGHTIER THAN OUR STONE CUDGELS!
BUT WE ARE MANY--AND HE IS ONE! CRUSH HIM! CRUSH HIM!
I SHALL BE ONE-- NO LONGER!
FOR MJOLNIR HURTLES TO MY SIDE!
BACK! BACK! HE HAS HIS HAMMER IN HAND! HE IS INVINCIBLE!
TRULY, IT HATH BEEN DECREED-- WE NE'ER MUST BE ASUNDER!
BALDER! BALDER-- WHERE ART THOU?
IF THEY HAVE DARED TO HARM THEE--!
I AM UNHARMED! BUT SAVE THYSELF! THE ODDS BE TOO GREAT!
WHO SPEAKS OF ODDS WHEN THERE BE WRONGS TO RIGHT?
I SHALL REACH THEE, BALDER!
NO MAN SHALL BAR THE WAY!

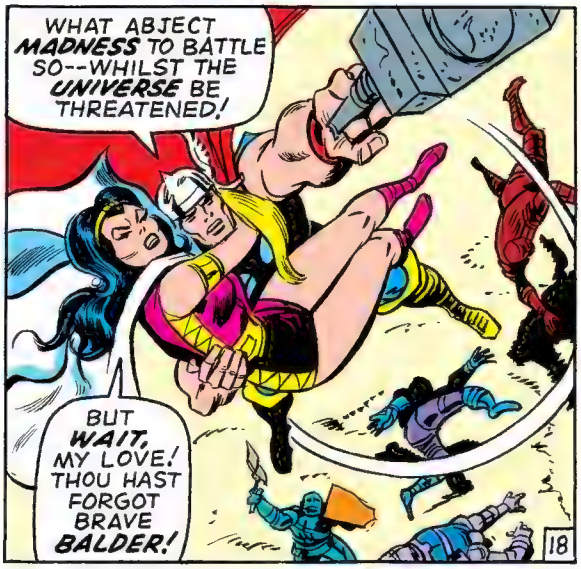
SPTANNG!
ANOTHER SWORD HATH JOINED THE FRAY!

ONWARD, MY PRINCE!
WHERE MY BELOVED SALLIES FORTH--LET HIS LADY SIF BE AT HIS SIDE!


SEIZE HER! WE WILL HAVE THE FAIREST HOSTAGE OF ALL!
SHE STRUGGLES LIKE A WARRIOR BORN!
WHILST LIFE REMAINS--NO HOSTAGE SHALL I BE!


MY LADY! THEY DARE TO STRIKE AT THEE!


BUT THEY SHALL STRIKE NO LONGER!


WHAT ABJECT MADNESS TO BATTLE SO--WHILST THE UNIVERSE BE THREATENED!
BUT WAIT, MY LOVE! THOU HAST FORGOT BRAVE BALDER!

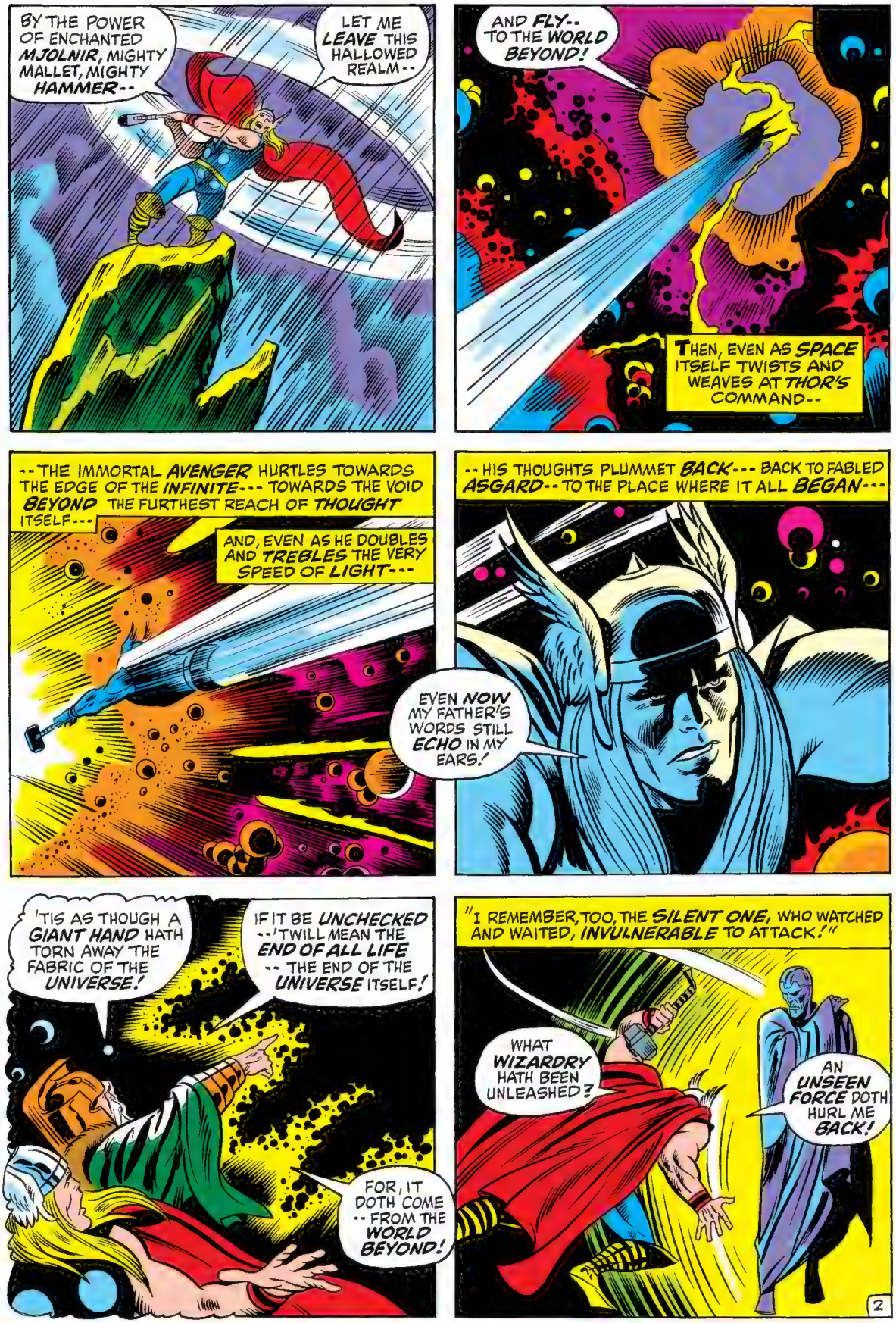
FORGET HIM? NAY!
THY SAFETY WAS MY FIRST CONCERN!
BUT NOW--
I STRIKE FOR BALDER!
'TIS DONE! THE FOE IS VANQUISHED!
AND BALDER, TOO, IS SAFE ONCE MORE!
BUT EVIL LOKI HATH ESCAPED!
RAGE NOT SO, MY LORD--I BEG THEE!
ALAS, FAIR SIF--AT SUCH A TIME, GENTLENESS ILL BECOMES A WARRIOR!
I LOVE THEE MOST WHEN, DESPITE THY STRENGTH, THOU ART MOST TRULY GENTLE!

AND YET, NONE BUT THEE CAN CALM THE FURY IN MY SOUL!
THY TENDER LIPS, LIKE PUREST NECTAR --BUT WAIT!!
THE SPIRIT OF ODIN DOTH APPEAR--
--SIGNIFYING DANGER BEYOND BELIEF!
THUNDER GOD! HEED THOU MY WORDS--
THE WORLD BEYOND COMES EVER CLOSER! THOU MUST--
NO! STAY BACK! STAY BACK!
I DARE NOT STAY! BUT REMEMBER WELL--
INFINITY!
HE SEEKS TO STAVE OFF SOME UNSEEN FOE!
THE SPIRIT HATH FADED! MY LIEGE IS GONE!
NAUGHT REMAINS-- SAVE THE HAUNTING WORD-- INFINITY!
MY COURSE IS CLEAR! I MUST FLY TO ODIN!
BUT THINK, MY PRINCE--
IF HE, THE ALL-FATHER-- WITH POWER BEYOND MEASURE--CANNOT PREVAIL--
WHAT HOPE CAN THERE BE FOR THEE --HIS SON?
KNOW THOU, MY LADY, HOPE SPRINGS EVER ETERNAL!
AS FOR THOR-- THERE BE NO CHOICE! GO I MUST--
--BECAUSE I AM--HIS SON!
NEXT: INFINITY!

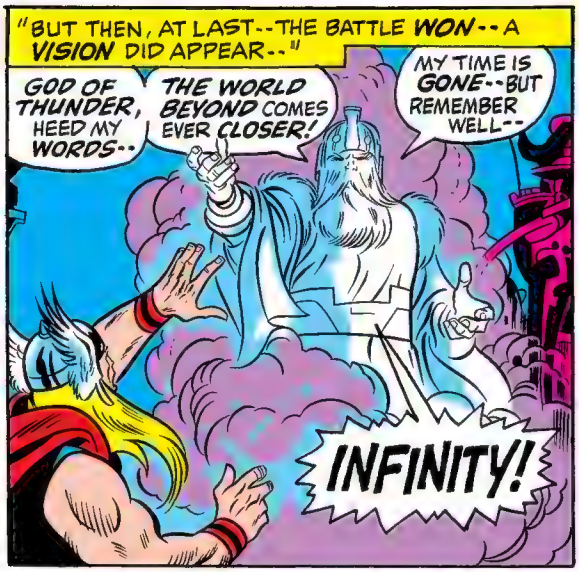
THOR
15¢
185
FEB
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SEE: THE POWER OF THE SILENT ONE!
SEE: WORLDS WITHOUT END IN THE GRIP OF--
INFINITY!
SEE: THE GOD OF THUNDER, ALONE AND UNARMED, TRAPPED UPON THE WORLD BEYOND!

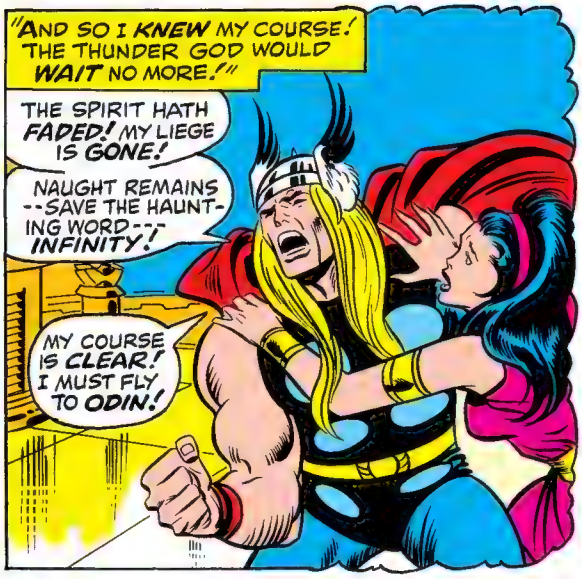
# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

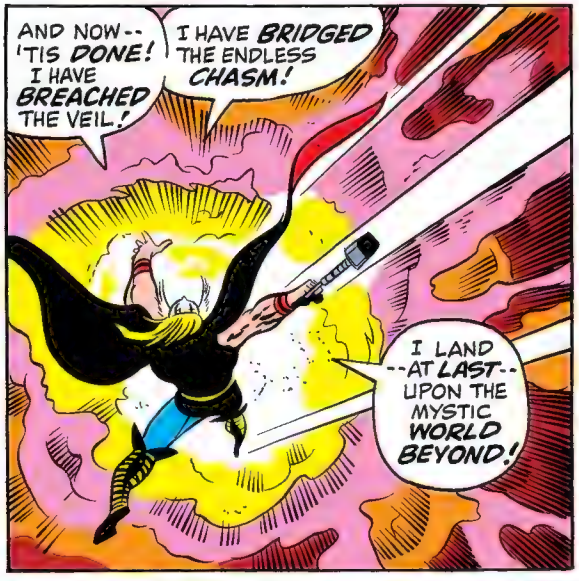
IN THE GRIP OF INFINITY!
DANGER HATH BEFALLEN NOBLE ODIN--- WITHIN THE WORLD BEYOND!
SO, TO HIS SIDE MUST I, THE GOD OF THUNDER FLY---
BECAUSE I AM--HIS SON!
COME, JOIN THE MIGHTY THOR AS HE PREPARES TO EMBARK UPON THE STRANGEST JOURNEY OF ALL! ENTER, WITH THE PRINCE OF ASGARD, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY, THE DREADED WORLD BEYOND--!
STORY: STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATION: JOHN BUSCEMA
DELINEATION: SAM GRAINGER
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN


BY THE POWER OF ENCHANTED MJOLNIR, MIGHTY MALLET, MIGHTY HAMMER--
LET ME LEAVE THIS HALLOWED REALM--
AND FLY-- TO THE WORLD BEYOND!
THEN, EVEN AS SPACE ITSELF TWISTS AND WEAVES AT THOR'S COMMAND--
--THE IMMORTAL AVENGER HURTLES TOWARDS THE EDGE OF THE INFINITE--- TOWARDS THE VOID BEYOND THE FURTHEST REACH OF THOUGHT ITSELF---
AND, EVEN AS HE DOUBLES AND TREBLES THE VERY SPEED OF LIGHT---
--HIS THOUGHTS PLUMMET BACK--- BACK TO FABLED ASGARD-- TO THE PLACE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN---
EVEN NOW MY FATHER'S WORDS STILL ECHO IN MY EARS!
'TIS AS THOUGH A GIANT HAND HATH TORN AWAY THE FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE!
IF IT BE UNCHECKED --'TWILL MEAN THE END OF ALL LIFE -- THE END OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!
FOR, IT DOTH COME -- FROM THE WORLD BEYOND!
"I REMEMBER, TOO, THE SILENT ONE, WHO WATCHED AND WAITED, INVULNERABLE TO ATTACK!"
WHAT WIZARDRY HATH BEEN UNLEASHED?
AN UNSEEN FORCE DOTH HURL ME BACK!
2

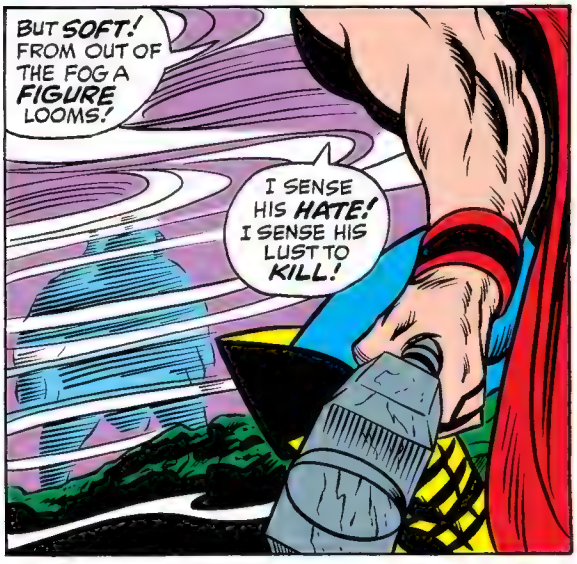
"AND, O'ERSHADOWING ALL ELSE, THE AWESOME ODIN-SWORD DIDST THREATEN TO UNSHEATH--!"
IF YON BLADE SHOULD LEAVE ITS SCABBARD--'TWILL MEAN THE DAY OF RAGNAROK HATH COME!
'TWILL MEAN THE WORLD MUST END!
"THE OMENS WERE CLEAR! THE COSMOS WAS THREATENED--AS NE'ER BEFORE! 'TWAS THEN THAT ODIN SPAKE--"
I LEAVE THEE IN MY PLACE, MY SON--
WHILST I GO FORTH--TO PROBE THE WORLD BEYOND!
AND, IF I FALL--
THEN THOU SHALT FOLLOW AFTER ME!
THE SILENT ONE -- HE SEEKS TO FOLLOW ODIN!
KEEP THY DISTANCE, THUNDER GOD!
LET HIM GO WHERE HE WILT-- FOR 'TIS HE WHO HOLDS THE KEY!
"AND SO THEY DID DEPART, WHILST I, WITH HEAVY HEART, REMAINED TO GUARD THE REALM!"
HE DARES INVADE THE UNKNOWN WORLD BEYOND...
IN COMPANY OF THE SILENT ONE-- WHOSE POWER, AND PURPOSE, ARE KNOWN TO NONE!
"BUT, I HAD LITTLE TIME TO BROOD--FOR WITH ODIN GONE--"
"THE TRAITOROUS LOKI LED HIS HORDES AGAINST THE REALM ETERNAL!"
"'TWAS A TIME FOR BATTLE, A TIME FOR VALOR--AND MY LADY SIF WAS EVER AT MY SIDE!"
WHO STRIKES AT THOR MUST STRIKE AT SIF!
3.

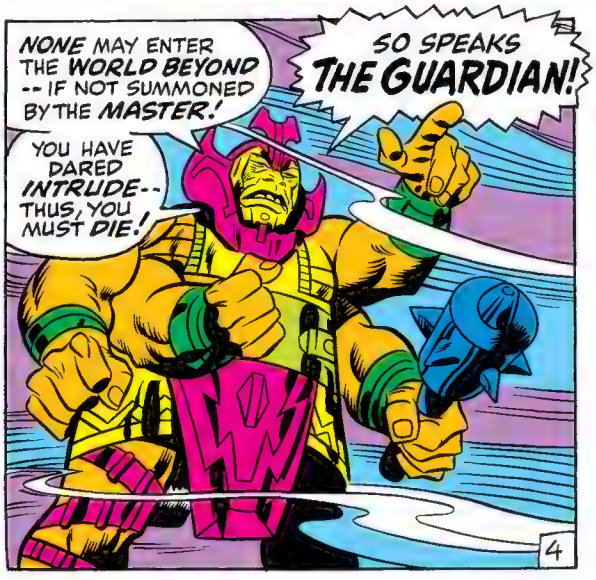

"BUT THEN, AT LAST--THE BATTLE WON--A VISION DID APPEAR--"
GOD OF THUNDER, HEED MY WORDS--
THE WORLD BEYOND COMES EVER CLOSER!
MY TIME IS GONE--BUT REMEMBER WELL--
INFINITY!

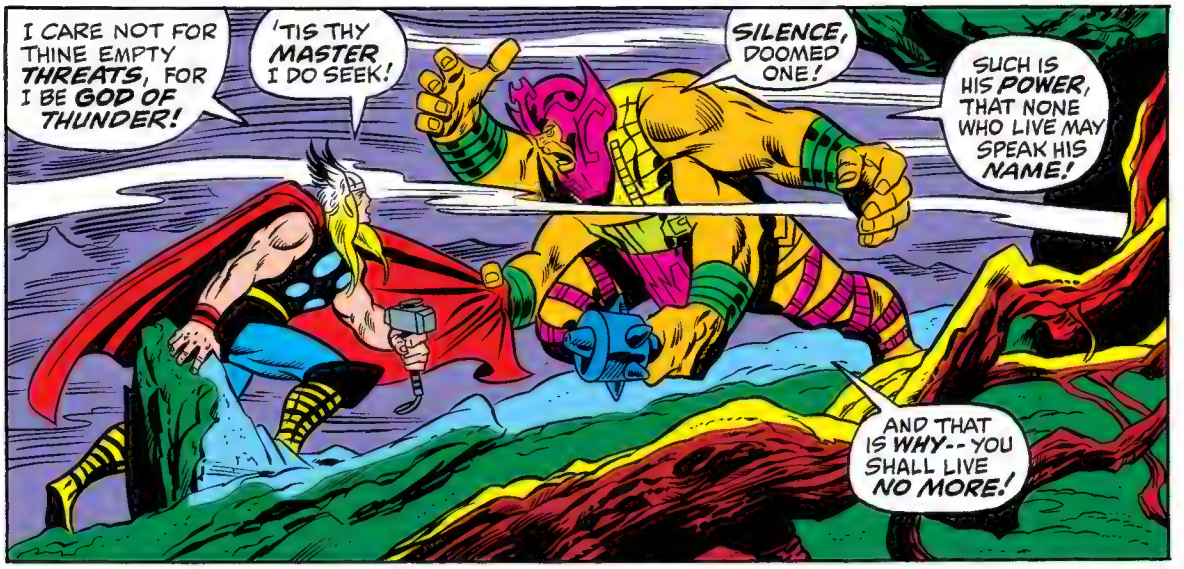

"AND SO I KNEW MY COURSE! THE THUNDER GOD WOULD WAIT NO MORE!"
THE SPIRIT HATH FADED! MY LIEGE IS GONE!
NAUGHT REMAINS --SAVE THE HAUNTING WORD--- INFINITY!
MY COURSE IS CLEAR! I MUST FLY TO ODIN!


AND NOW-- 'TIS DONE! I HAVE BREACHED THE VEIL!
I HAVE BRIDGED THE ENDLESS CHASM!
I LAND --AT LAST-- UPON THE MYSTIC WORLD BEYOND!

AND SILENCE SO DEEP, IT DOTH CHILL THE BLOOD!
'TIS A PLACE OF SHADOWS-- AND SWIRLING MISTS--
THERE BE NO START--- THERE BE NO END! HOW THEN SHALL I FIND ODIN?

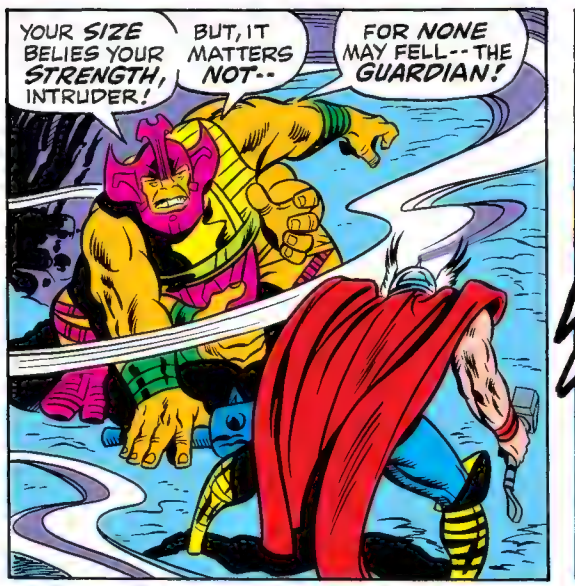

BUT SOFT! FROM OUT OF THE FOG A FIGURE LOOMS!
I SENSE HIS HATE! I SENSE HIS LUST TO KILL!

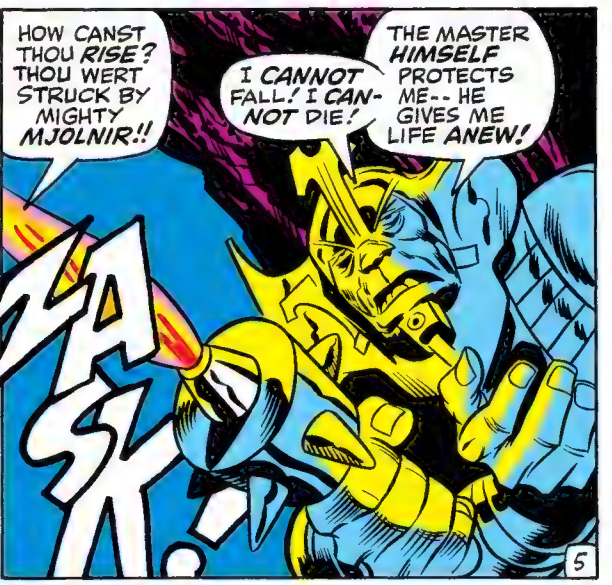

NONE MAY ENTER THE WORLD BEYOND --IF NOT SUMMONED BY THE MASTER!
SO SPEAKS THE GUARDIAN!
YOU HAVE DARED INTRUDE-- THUS, YOU MUST DIE!


I CARE NOT FOR THINE EMPTY THREATS, FOR I BE GOD OF THUNDER!
'TIS THY MASTER I DO SEEK!
SILENCE, DOOMED ONE!
SUCH IS HIS POWER, THAT NONE WHO LIVE MAY SPEAK HIS NAME!
AND THAT IS WHY-- YOU SHALL LIVE NO MORE!

DEADLY IS THINE ARM!
BUT THY SPEED IS NOT ITS EQUAL!
THOOM!

'TIS FITTING NOW THAT THOU SHALT FEEL THE MIGHT OF THOR!

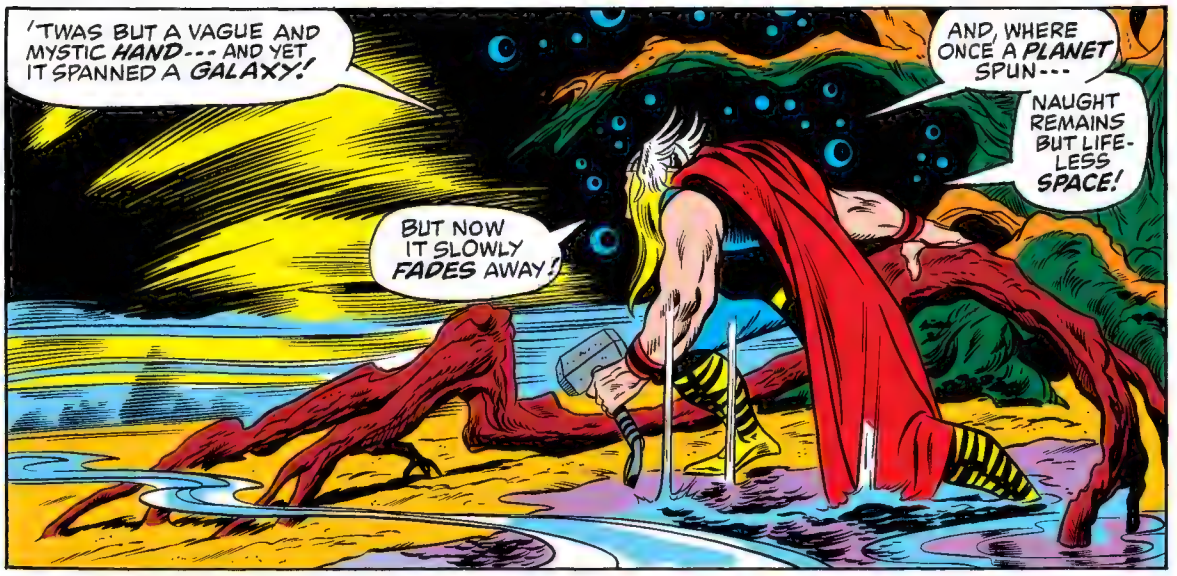

YOUR SIZE BELIES YOUR STRENGTH, INTRUDER!
BUT, IT MATTERS NOT--
FOR NONE MAY FELL-- THE GUARDIAN!


HOW CANST THOU RISE? THOU WERT STRUCK BY MIGHTY MJOLNIR!!
I CANNOT FALL! I CANNOT DIE!
THE MASTER HIMSELF PROTECTS ME-- HE GIVES ME LIFE ANEW!
ZASK!

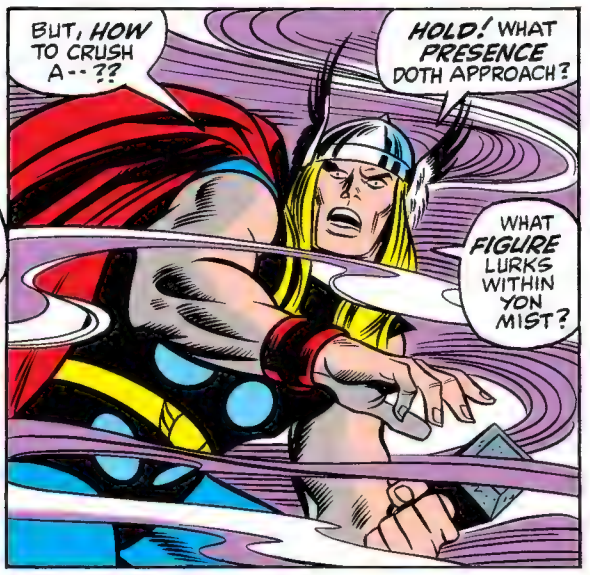
AND HE POWERS MY MACE WITH A FORCE SUPREME!
A FORCE TO SAP YOUR STRENGTH--- AND TURN YOUR BLOOD TO WATER!
THERE BE NO FORCE TO FELL THE MIGHTY THOR!
MY BLOOD IS MORE THAN BLOOD---
--FOR IT BE THE BLOOD OF-- ODIN!
I KNOW NOT THE WORLD YOU COME FROM---
BUT HERE, IT IS THE MASTER ALONE-- WHO RULES!
THE MASTER ALONE WHO IS LORD OF LIFE--AND DEATH!
ALL WORLDS ARE ONE!
AND ODIN IS THE POWER!
IT CANNOT BE! YOU CANNOT STAND AGAINST ME!
FOR YOU ARE MERELY FLESH AND BLOOD--
WHILE I--I AM--THE GUARDIAN!!
NEVER HAVE I KNOWN SUCH POWER--
SAVE FOR THE WHITE-BEARDED ONE-- WHOM THE MASTER CLAIMED FOR HIS OWN!
ODIN! THOU SPEAKEST OF--MY FATHER!
6

THOU HAST SEEN THE HALLOWED LORD OF ALL!
AND THOU SHALT LEAD ME TO HIM!
FOR NONE MAY HOLD MY FATHER CAPTIVE!
FOOL! YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU SAY!
YOU KNOW NOT THE MAJESTY OR WRATH-- OF THE MIGHTY MASTER!
HE SEEKS TO VANISH 'NEATH THE STYGIAN SURF--
BUT WHERE'ER HE FLEES-- THE THUNDER GOD SHALL FOLLOW!
THE GUARDIAN DOES NOT FLEE!
THEN THOU SHALT SPEAK NOW, WRETCHED ONE--
WHERE HIDES THINE ACCURSED MASTER?
BLASPHEMER! THOSE WORDS HAVE SEALED YOUR FATE!
NAY! TELL ME THAT WHICH I MUST KNOW--
THY MASTER'S NAME-- BE IT-- INFINITY?
NO! NO! CHOKE BACK THE WORDS!!
WHO MOUTHED MY NAME!?
THE MASTER HAS HEARD
NOW TRULY --WE ARE LOST!
THE HEAVENS TREMBLE-- THE GROUND DOTH SHAKE!

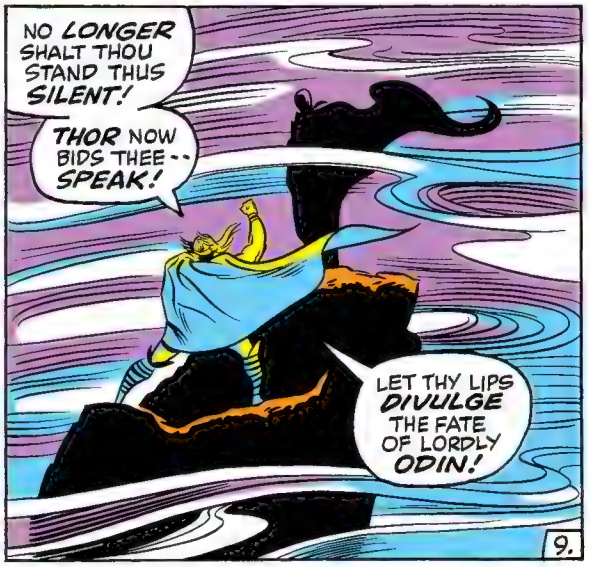
MERCY, MASTER MERCY!
GUARDIAN -- YOU HAVE FAILED!
AND SO-- YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE!
HE GROWS STIFF-- AND LIFELESS-- SLUMPING FORWARD AS IF IN DEATH!
YET, NOT A BLOW HATH FALLEN!
YOU SHALL SLEEP THE SLEEP BEYOND ALL SLEEP...
TILL I SUMMON YOU AGAIN!
WHOE'ER THOU ART-- WHATE'ER THOU BE--
NOW HEED THE WORDS OF THOR!
WHAT HATH BEFALLEN THE REGAL ODIN-- HE WHO IS MY FATHER?
WHAT CARE I FOR FATHER-- OR FOR SON? I-- WHO RULE A UNIVERSE!
I, TO WHOM A PLANET MATTERS LESS THAN ANY PEBBLE!
HE REACHES OUT-- TO SEIZE A SPINNING GLOBE--
IT VANISHES WITHIN HIS GIANT GRASP--
--AND NOW IS GONE-- WITHOUT A TRACE!


'TWAS BUT A VAGUE AND MYSTIC HAND--- AND YET IT SPANNED A GALAXY!
AND, WHERE ONCE A PLANET SPUN---
NAUGHT REMAINS BUT LIFE-LESS SPACE!
BUT NOW IT SLOWLY FADES AWAY!

HEAR ME, FATHER--- WHERE'ER THOU MAY-EST BE!
THOU WERT RIGHT TO FEAR INFINITY!
FOR, IF HE BE NOT CRUSHED-- THE UNIVERSE SHALL CRUMBLE!

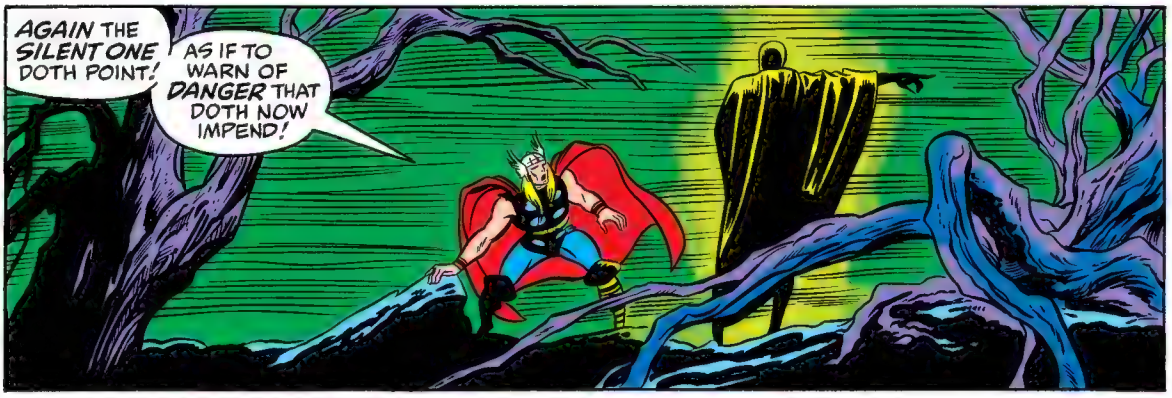

BUT, HOW TO CRUSH A--??
HOLD! WHAT PRESENCE DOTH APPROACH?
WHAT FIGURE LURKS WITHIN YON MIST?

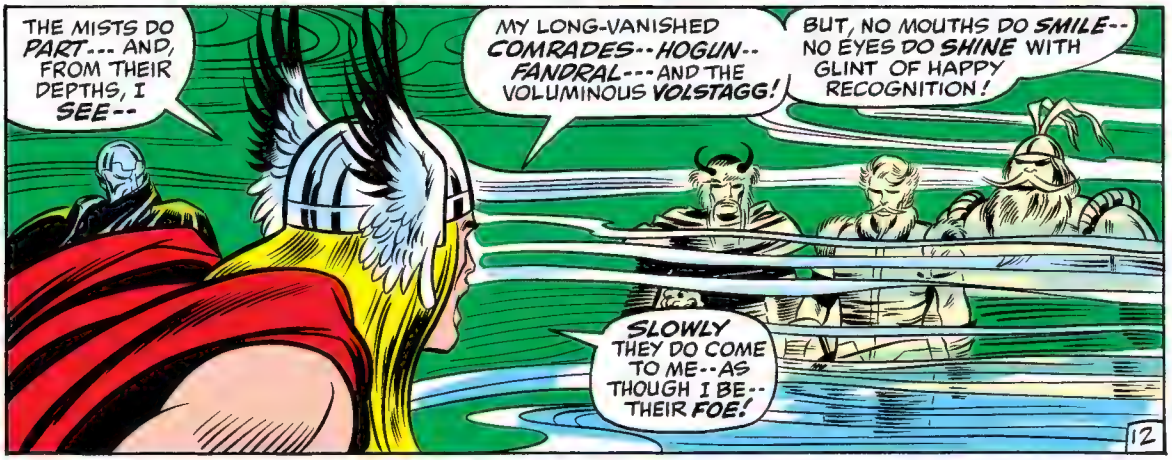
'TIS THEE--- THE MYSTERIOUS SILENT ONE, WHO HATH FOLLOWED ODIN TO THIS GRIM AND GHOSTLY SPHERE!


NO LONGER SHALT THOU STAND THUS SILENT!
THOR NOW BIDS THEE-- SPEAK!
LET THY LIPS DIVULGE THE FATE OF LORDLY ODIN!

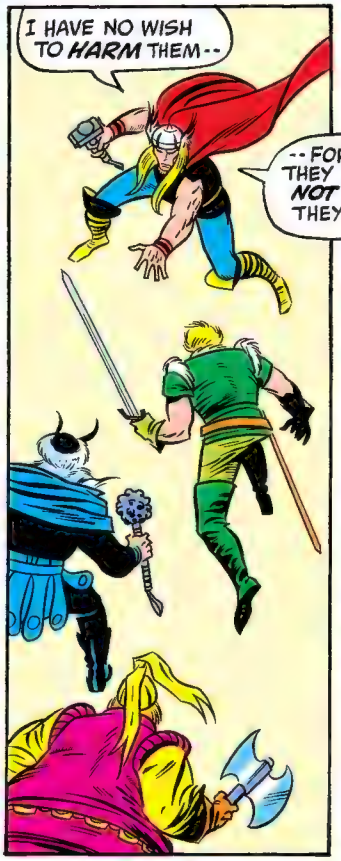
AGAIN THOU DAREST DEFY THE GOD OF THUNDER?!!
THEN LET THE WRATH OF MJOLNIR SHOW THEE-- NO!
I CANNOT STRIKE THEE! MY VERY ARMS OBEY ME NOT!
BUT STILL THOU SHALT NOT WIN THE DAY!
IF MJOLNIR CANNOT TOUCH THY FORM--THEN THERE BE OTHER WAYS!
THE PEAK 'PON WHICH THOU STAND--
ONE BLOW SHALL SHATTER IT TO DUST--
THEN THOU SHALT STAND-- NO MORE!
BY THE HALLOWED HALLS OF ASGARD!!
WHAT NAMELESS WIZARDRY IS THIS??
NOT ALL MY MIGHT-- NOT ALL MY RAGE-- CAN MAKE MY WILL PREVAIL!
BUT HOLD! I SEE THEE TURN AND RAISE THINE EYES!
THY FINGER POINTS -- IT BECKONS ME TO LOOK!
THEN, THE TIME HATH COME!
NOW THOR SHALL LEARN --THE TRUTH!

MINE EYES BEHOLD A DISTANT WORLD--
AS INFINITY DRAWS NEAR---
THE GLOBE IS BATHED IN BLACKNESS--
BUT NOW I SEE-- MORE CLEARLY THAN BEFORE-- 'TIS NOT DESTROYED!
IT SIMPLY FADES FROM HUMAN SIGHT--
SWALLOWED BY THE STYGIAN DARKNESS WITHIN THE WORLD BEYOND!
"AND ALL WHO DWELLED UPON THAT GLOBE HAVE LOST THEIR WILL! THEY DO BUT LIVE TO SERVE--INFINITY!"
ENOUGH! ENOUGH! I'LL SEE NO MORE!
THE SIGHT DOTH CHILL MY HEART AND SOUL!
THOU HAST REVEALED THAT INFINITY HATH POWER ENOW TO ENSLAVE THE COSMOS!
BUT-- WHAT OF ODIN? NE'ER MUST HE KNOW SUCH A FATE!
FOR, IF MY HALLOWED FATHER FALL---
THEN WHO SHALL SAVE THE UNIVERSE?!!
11.


AGAIN THE SILENT ONE DOTH POINT!
AS IF TO WARN OF DANGER THAT DOTH NOW IMPEND!

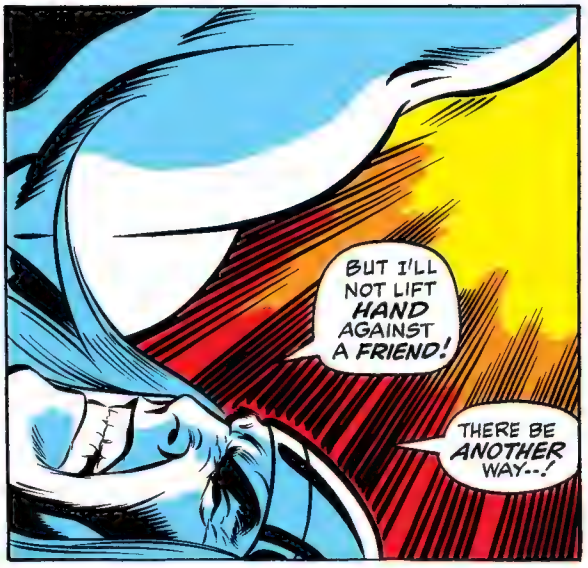

THE MISTS DO PART--- AND, FROM THEIR DEPTHS, I SEE--
MY LONG-VANISHED COMRADES--HOGUN--FANDRAL---AND THE VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG!
BUT, NO MOUTHS DO SMILE--NO EYES DO SHINE WITH GLINT OF HAPPY RECOGNITION!
SLOWLY THEY DO COME TO ME--AS THOUGH I BE--THEIR FOE!
12

THEY DRAW THEIR WEAPONS---PREPARING TO ATTACK!
IN TRUTH, I VOW, THEY SEEM TO KNOW ME NOT!


I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM THEM--
--FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO!

AND SO, THE STORM SHALL STAY THEIR BLOWS!
THE STORM WHICH I--THE THUNDER GOD--COMMAND FOR NOW AND EVER!
POUR YE RAIN, AND BLOW YE WINDS! SO SPEAKS THY MASTER--THOR!
13

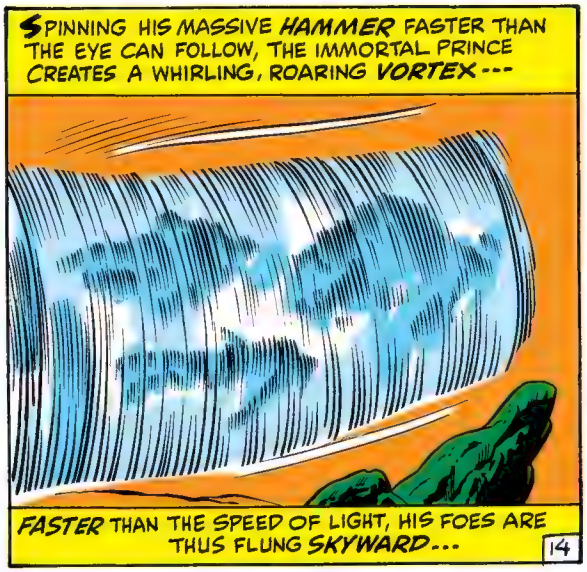
'TIS NOT ENOW! THEY BE ASGARDIANS!
NOT E'EN THE STORM CAN HALT THEM!

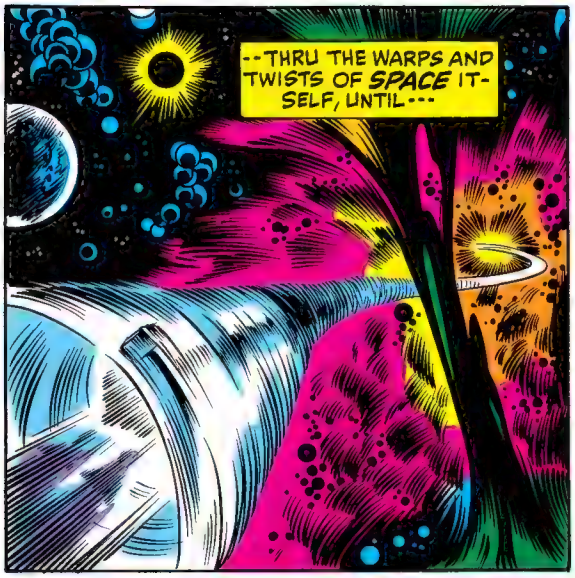

BUT I'LL NOT LIFT HAND AGAINST A FRIEND!
THERE BE ANOTHER WAY--!

IF STORM ALONE WILL NOT SUFFICE--
LET THERE BE-- HURRICANE!

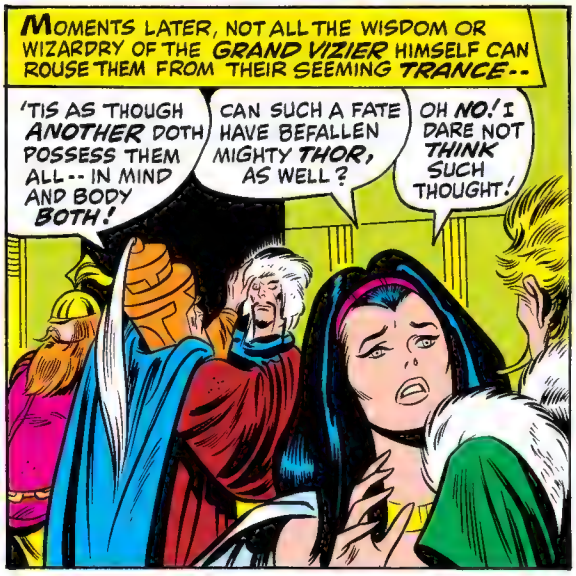
BY ODIN'S BEARD! THEY DO RETURN! BUT, NONE WHO LIVE CAN BREACH SUCH BLAST! UNLESS---

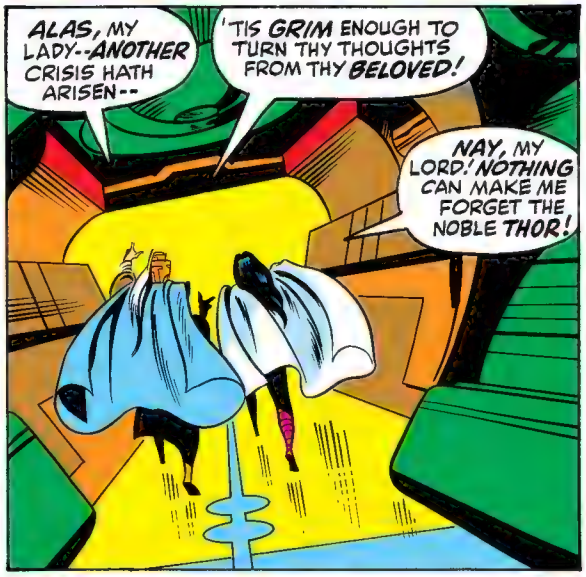
'TIS THE DOING OF INFINITY!
HE CONTROLS THEIR MINDS-- AND LIMBS AS WELL!
BUT THOR HATH JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT!

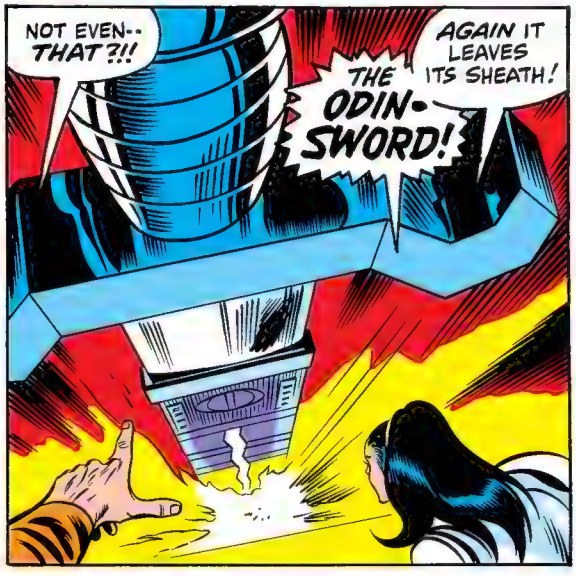

SPINNING HIS MASSIVE HAMMER FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, THE IMMORTAL PRINCE CREATES A WHIRLING, ROARING VORTEX---
FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT, HIS FOES ARE THUS FLUNG SKYWARD---


--THRU THE WARPS AND TWISTS OF SPACE ITSELF, UNTIL---

THEY LAND UPON THE RAINBOW BRIDGE--
WHO THUS DESCENDS --TO ASGARD?

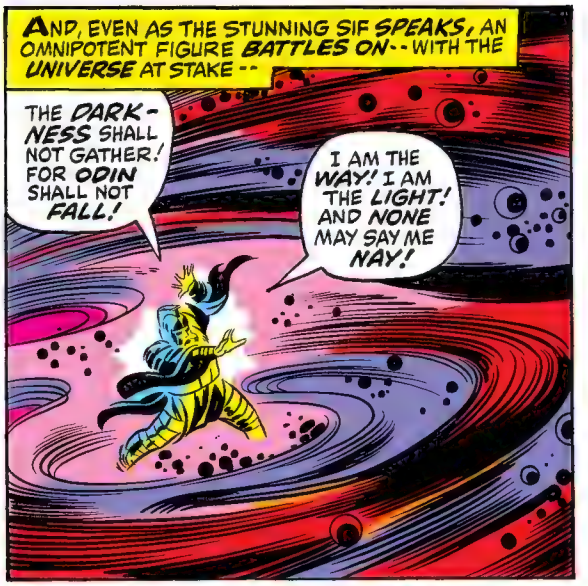

MOMENTS LATER, NOT ALL THE WISDOM OR WIZARDRY OF THE GRAND VIZIER HIMSELF CAN ROUSE THEM FROM THEIR SEEMING TRANCE--
'TIS AS THOUGH ANOTHER DOTH POSSESS THEM ALL--IN MIND AND BODY BOTH!
CAN SUCH A FATE HAVE BEFALLEN MIGHTY THOR, AS WELL?
OH NO! I DARE NOT THINK SUCH THOUGHT!

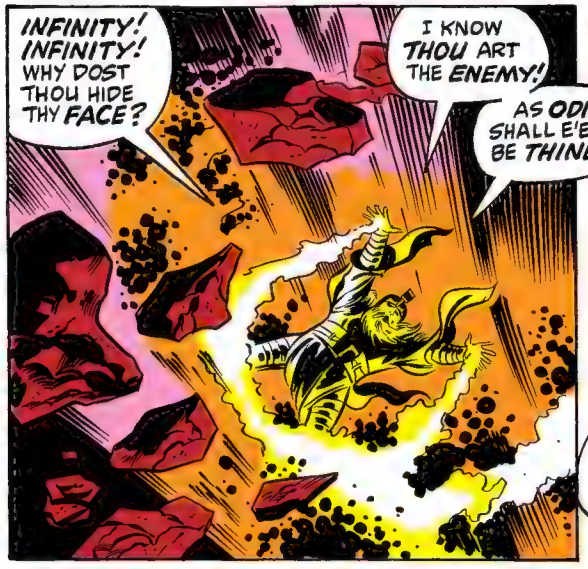

ALAS, MY LADY--ANOTHER CRISIS HATH ARISEN--
'TIS GRIM ENOUGH TO TURN THY THOUGHTS FROM THY BELOVED!
NAY, MY LORD! NOTHING CAN MAKE ME FORGET THE NOBLE THOR!


NOT EVEN--THAT?!!
AGAIN IT LEAVES ITS SHEATH!
THE ODIN-SWORD!

THOUGH IT MOVES EXCEEDING SLOW--I TELL YOU THIS, MY LADY--
THE DIAL SHOWS --BEYOND A DOUBT--IT MOVES!
--'TIS TOO HORRIBLE TO THINK UPON!
IF IT IS NOT STOPPED-- THE WORLD WILL END!
'TWILL BE THE DAWN OF-- RAGNAROK!

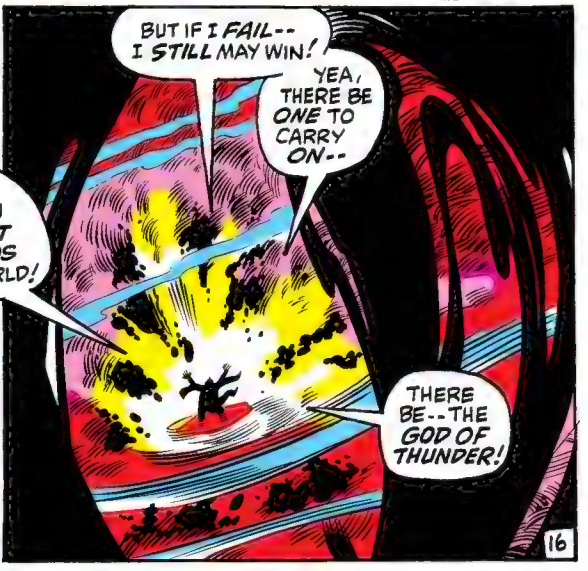
NONE SAVE LORDLY ODIN POSSESSES THE POWER TO SHEATH THE SWORD ANEW!
BUT-- IF HE BE TRAPPED-- IN THE WORLD BEYOND---
THEN, ALL WHO LIVE-- ARE LOST!

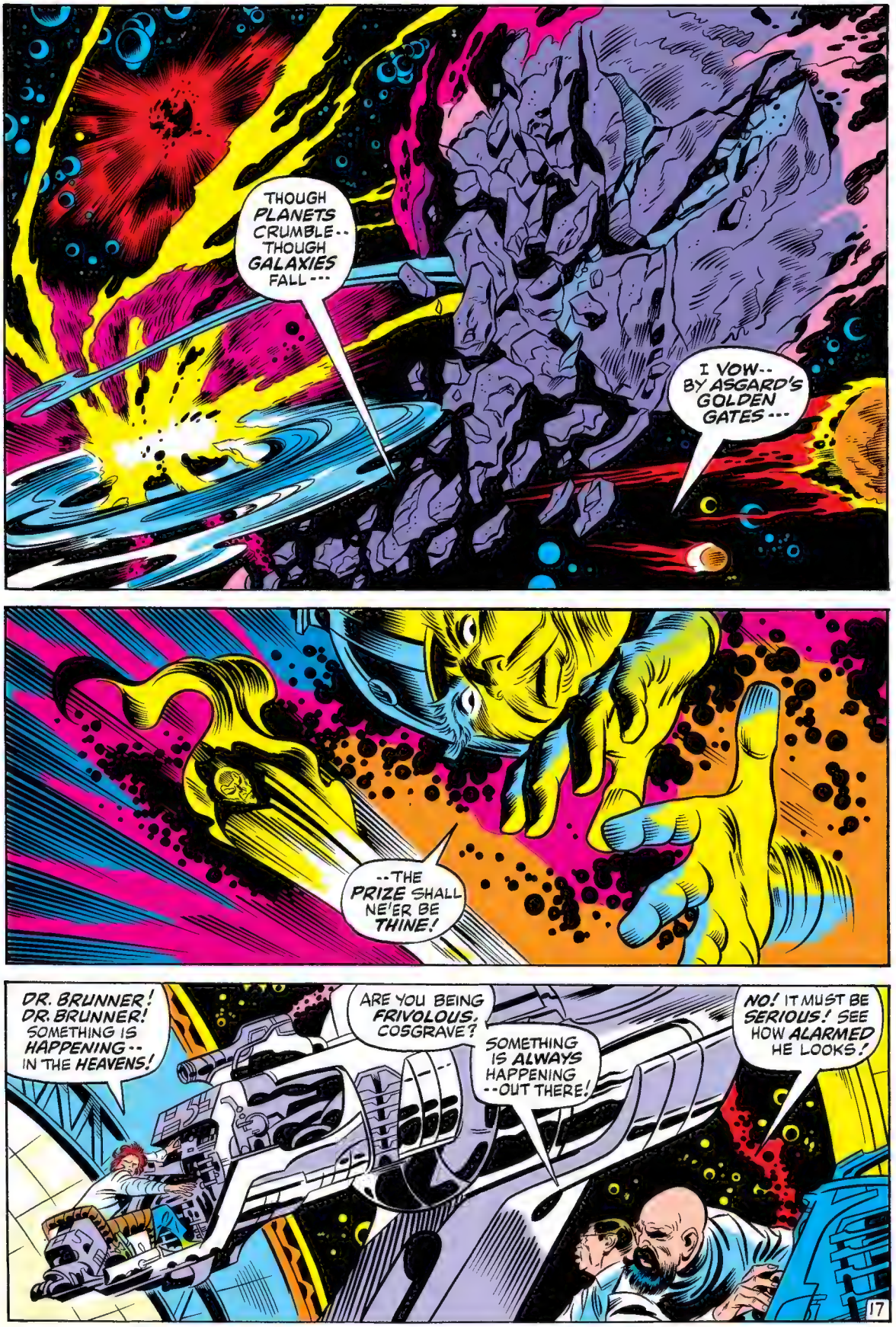

AND, EVEN AS THE STUNNING SIF SPEAKS, AN OMNIPOTENT FIGURE BATTLES ON-- WITH THE UNIVERSE AT STAKE --
THE DARK-NESS SHALL NOT GATHER! FOR ODIN SHALL NOT FALL!
I AM THE WAY! I AM THE LIGHT! AND NONE MAY SAY ME NAY!


INFINITY! INFINITY! WHY DOST THOU HIDE THY FACE?
I KNOW THOU ART THE ENEMY!
AS ODIN SHALL E'ER BE THINE!

NOW KNOW YOU THIS, O HIDDEN ONE---
THOUGH SPACE BE ENDLESS-- THE COSMOS VAST--
THEY BE TOO SMALL -- FOR THEE AND ME!

I SEE THEE WATCHING, SILENT ONE! THOUGH I CANNOT GUESS THY PLAN--
THOU MUST SEE ME SOON TRIUMPHANT --LEST CHAOS RULE THE WORLD!


BUT IF I FAIL-- I STILL MAY WIN!
YEA, THERE BE ONE TO CARRY ON--
THERE BE--THE GOD OF THUNDER!


THOUGH PLANETS CRUMBLE-- THOUGH GALAXIES FALL ---
I VOW-- BY ASGARD'S GOLDEN GATES ---
--THE PRIZE SHALL NE'ER BE THINE!
DR. BRUNNER! DR. BRUNNER! SOMETHING IS HAPPENING-- IN THE HEAVENS!
ARE YOU BEING FRIVOLOUS, COSGRAVE?
SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING --OUT THERE!
NO! IT MUST BE SERIOUS! SEE HOW ALARMED HE LOOKS!
17

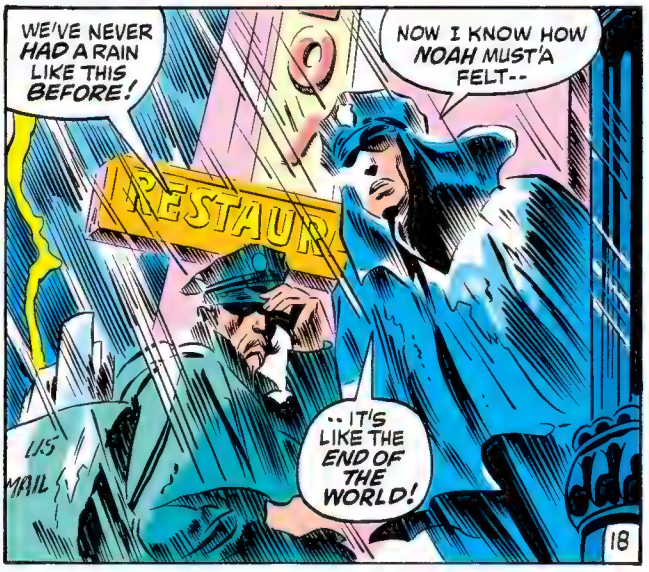
WE'LL PROJECT THE IMAGE ON THE VIEW-SCREEN!
THERE! I SEE IT, TOO! I SEE WHAT COSGRAVE MEANT!
BUT YOU'RE LOOKING PAST THE OUTERMOST REACHES! WE CAN ONLY GUESS WHAT IT REPRESENTS!
IT REPRESENTS --CATASTROPHE!

THERE ARE FLICKERING LIGHTS-- WHERE NO LIGHTS HAVE EVER BEEN!
AND--AREAS OF DARKNESS-- WHERE ONCE FAINT QUASARS PULSED!
IT MEANS --WORLDS BEING BORN-- AND DYING!
IT MEANS FAR MORE THAN THAT!

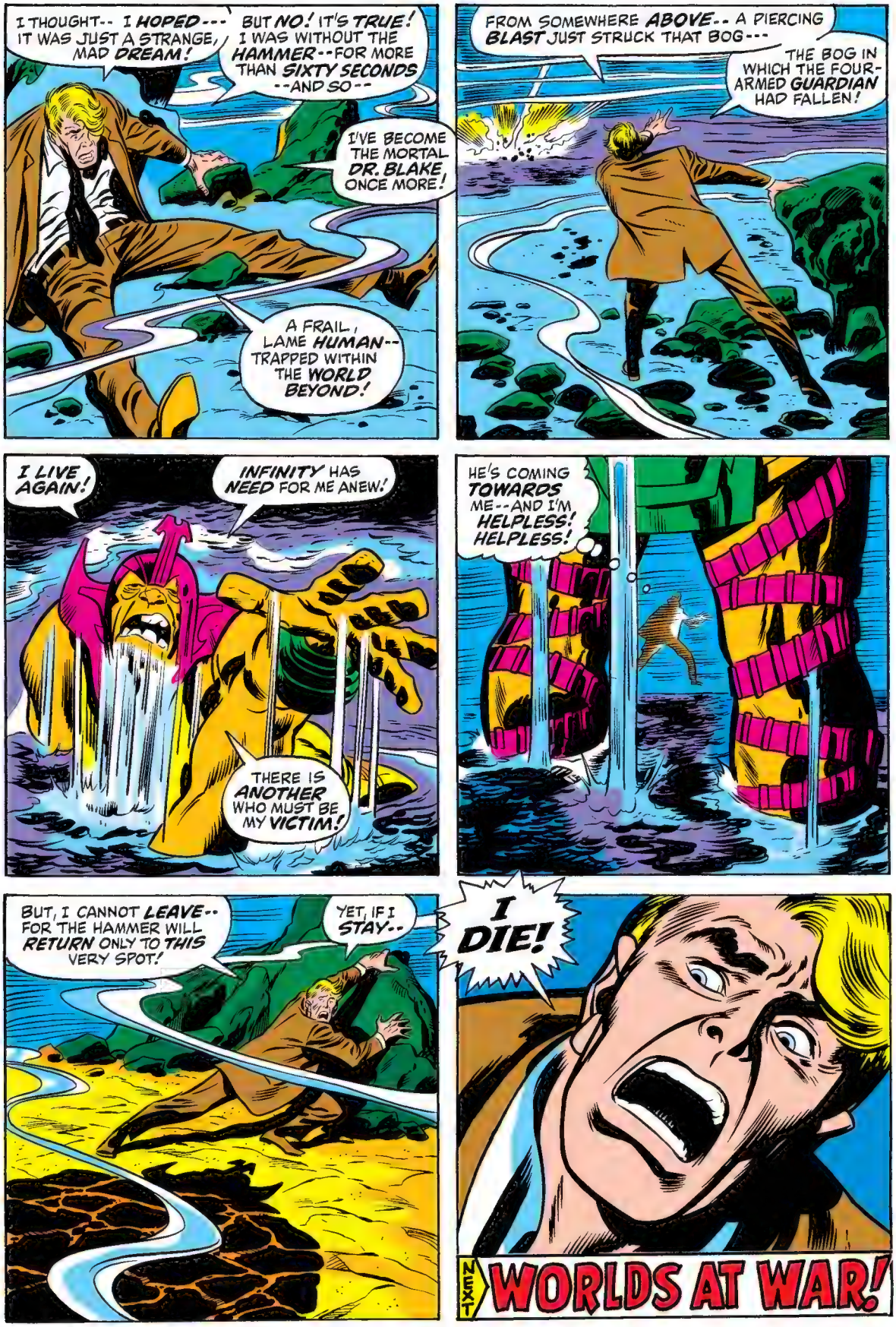
IT MEANS A MAD, MONSTROUS, MIND-BOGGLING CATACLYSM --SO UNIMAGINABLY POWERFUL THAT IT HAS PIERCED THE VEIL OF TIME AND SPACE!
BUT TO US-- IT WILL EVER BE A MYSTERY-- UNTIL PERHAPS, TOO LATE!

TOO LATE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BRUNNER?
ANY FORCE SO SHATTERING--- THOUGH IT'S FURTHER AWAY THAN OUR MINDS CAN IMAGINE---
DON'T SAY IT, BRUNNER! I SENSE WHAT YOU MEAN--

--SUCH A FORCE CAN DESTROY THE EARTH!


WE'VE NEVER HAD A RAIN LIKE THIS BEFORE!
NOW I KNOW HOW NOAH MUST'A FELT--
RESTAURANT
U.S. MAIL
--IT'S LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD!

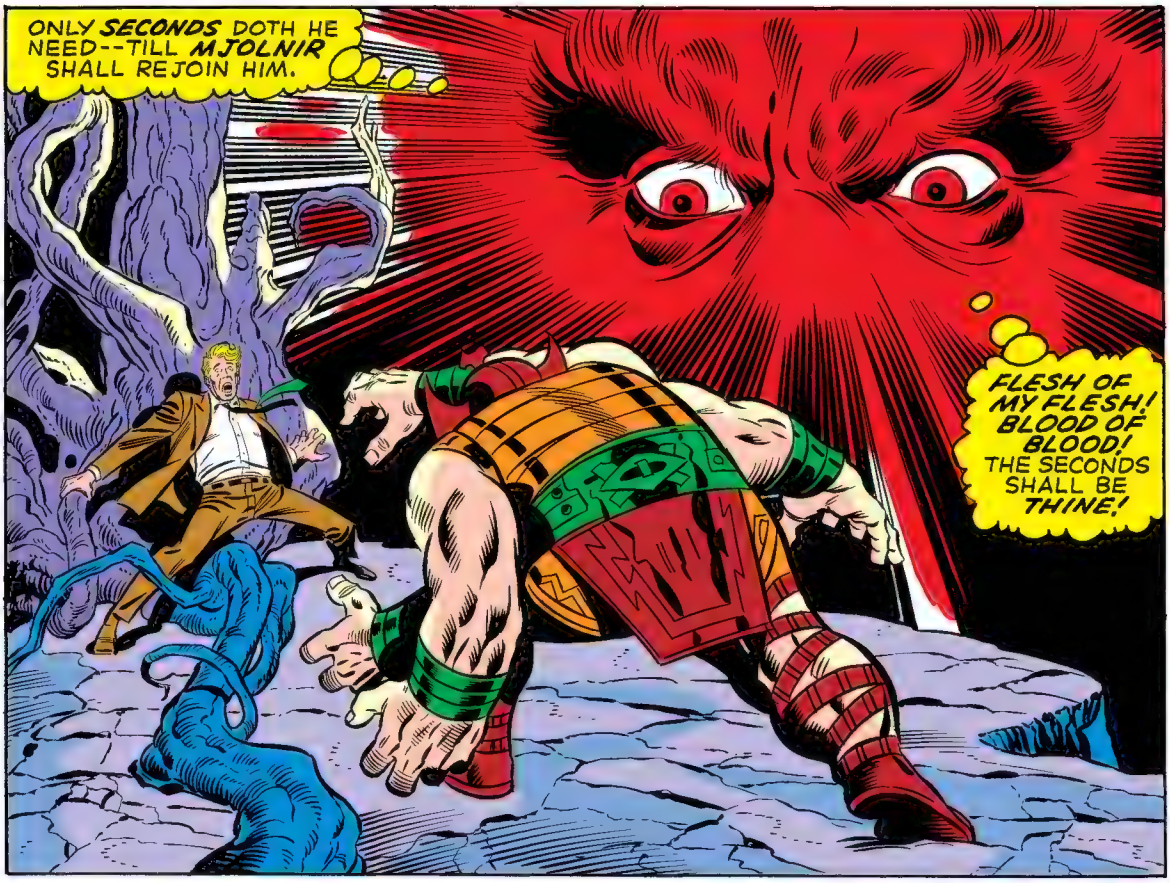
MINUTE AFTER MINUTE, HOUR AFTER HOUR, DAY AFTER DAY, THE DELUGE GROWS STRONGER ON THE TINY PLANET EARTH---
BUT, AT THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE---
--WHERE TIME ITSELF CAN HAVE NO MEANING--
--THE WORLD BEYOND STILL SEETHES AND SWELLS--FOR NONE HAVE YET CONTAINED IT!
BUT ONE MAN STANDS--AND WAITS--AND PLANS--ONE MAN, WHO IS SOMEHOW MORE THAN MAN---
MY ENCHANTED HAMMER HATH HURLED MY COMRADES ASGARDWARD---
PERCHANCE TO SAFETY, AS WAS MY PLAN!
BUT THE JOURNEY, ALAS, HATH TAKEN TOO LONG---
WITHOUT MJOLNIR IN HAND, I CAN BE THUNDER GOD NO LONGER---
MJOLNIR! MJOLNIR! RETURN TO THY MASTER!
MY BRAIN DOTH THROB--MY LIMBS GROW WEAK---
THE SANDS OF TIME NOW SLIP AWAY--
--AND WITH THEM SLIPS--THE MIGHTY THOR!!
19


I THOUGHT-- I HOPED--- IT WAS JUST A STRANGE, MAD DREAM!
BUT NO! IT'S TRUE! I WAS WITHOUT THE HAMMER--FOR MORE THAN SIXTY SECONDS --AND SO--
I'VE BECOME THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE ONCE MORE!
A FRAIL, LAME HUMAN-- TRAPPED WITHIN THE WORLD BEYOND!
FROM SOMEWHERE ABOVE-- A PIERCING BLAST JUST STRUCK THAT BOG---
THE BOG IN WHICH THE FOUR-ARMED GUARDIAN HAD FALLEN!
I LIVE AGAIN!
INFINITY HAS NEED FOR ME ANEW!
THERE IS ANOTHER WHO MUST BE MY VICTIM!
HE'S COMING TOWARDS ME--AND I'M HELPLESS! HELPLESS!
BUT, I CANNOT LEAVE-- FOR THE HAMMER WILL RETURN ONLY TO THIS VERY SPOT!
YET, IF I STAY--
I DIE!
NEXT
WORLDS AT WAR!

THOR
15¢
CC
186
MAR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DEFEATED BY THE GODDESS OF DEATH!
THE TIME HAS COME TO DIE!
MARVEL
HELA! DO NOT CAST THY SPELL!
THOR MUST NOT PERISH NOW!
FOR IF I FALL, THEN WHO WILL STOP--
--THE MURDER OF THE UNIVERSE--
--BY THE WORLD BEYOND!
NEVER SUCH THRILLS!
NEVER SUCH WONDER!
NEVER SUCH AN EPIC, AS---
WORLDS AT WAR!

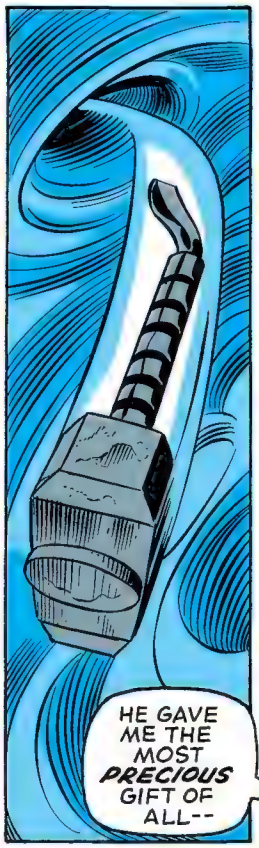
THE MIGHTY THOR!
WORLDS AT WAR!
RULED BY A SUPER-POWERFUL BEING KNOWN ONLY AS INFINITY--THE FAR-OFF WORLD BEYOND THREATENS TO DESTROY THE UNIVERSE! SEEKING TO SAVE THE COSMOS, LORDLY ODIN HAS DARED TO ENTER THE WORLD BEYOND--TOGETHER WITH THE MYSTERIOUS SILENT ONE. BUT NOW, AS ODIN BATTLES INFINITY--HE SENSES DANGER TO THE MIGHTY THOR, WHO HAS FOLLOWED--TO AID HIS FATHER--
DANGER MOST DEADLY DOTH THREATEN MY SON--
BUT, THOUGH THE THUNDER GOD HATH NEED OF ODIN'S POWER--
I CANNOT LEAVE--I DARE NOT TURN MY BACK ON HIM WHO IS INFINITY!
PERHAPS THE GREATEST SAGA IN THIS, THE MARVEL AGE!
STORY: STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATION: JOHN BUSCEMA
EMBELLISHMENT: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

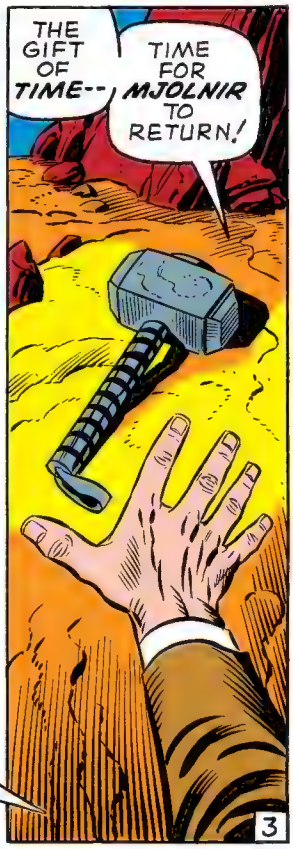
ONLY THE POWER OF ODIN DOTH STAND BETWEEN INFINITY AND DEATH FOR ALL WHO LIVE!
THE THREAT COMETH EVER CLOSER. I DARE NOT TURN AWAY!
NEVER HAVE I BATTLED FOE SO MIGHTY--FOE SO MONSTROUS!
YEA--NEVER ONE SO MERCILESS!
BUT WHAT OF HIM WHO BE MY SON?
THRU THE DIN OF BATTLE, MY HEART DOTH FEEL HIS ANGUISH!
NO LONGER BE HE THOR.
HE HATH ASSUMED HIS HUMAN FORM--AND THUS NOW STANDS HE POWERLESS!
UNTIL HIS HAMMER DOTH RETURN, HE FACES CERTAIN DEATH!
MINE EYES BEHOLD A VISION--THE TERROR ON HIS FACE.
TAKE HEART, MY SON. NE'ER SHALT THOU BE ABANDONED!
2


ONLY SECONDS DOTH HE NEED--TILL MJOLNIR SHALL REJOIN HIM.
FLESH OF MY FLESH! BLOOD OF BLOOD! THE SECONDS SHALL BE THINE!

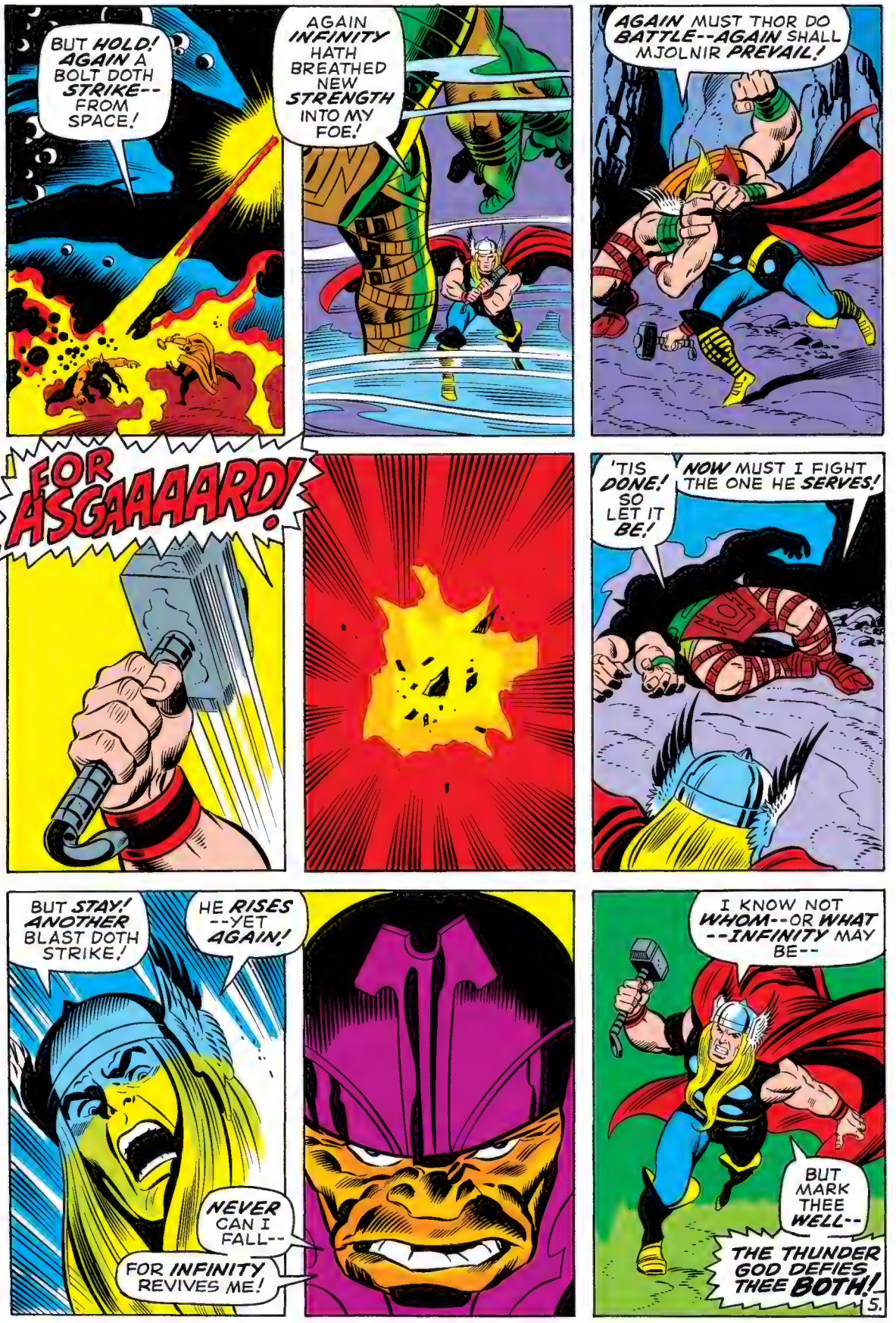
A BOLT OF INDESCRIBABLE FORCE--A BLAST OF COSMIC ENERGY--
THEY STRIKE THE GUARDIAN--DRIVING HIM BACK!

IT COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM--ALL-FATHER ODIN!
THOUGH HE TOO BATTLES FOR HIS LIFE--
HE STILL FOUND A WAY TO AID ME!


HE GAVE ME THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT OF ALL--


THE GIFT OF TIME--
TIME FOR MJOLNIR TO RETURN!

ONCE MORE I GRASP MY MIGHTY MALLET!
ONCE MORE ITS ENCHANTMENT FAILS ME NOT!
ONCE MORE I BE--THE THUNDER GOD!
GUARDIAN, HO! TO THEE I SAY--
STAND THOU ASIDE! FOR THOR WOULDST PASS!
THOR WILL DIE! NONE MAY PASS THE GUARDIAN!
ZROK
--FOR I DO SERVE INFINITY!
THOR DOTH SERVE A A MASTER, TOO!
I STRIKE --FOR NOBLE ODIN!
BTOM!
HE HATH FALLEN AT LAST.
NOW I BE FREE TO SEEK MY LIEGE.
4

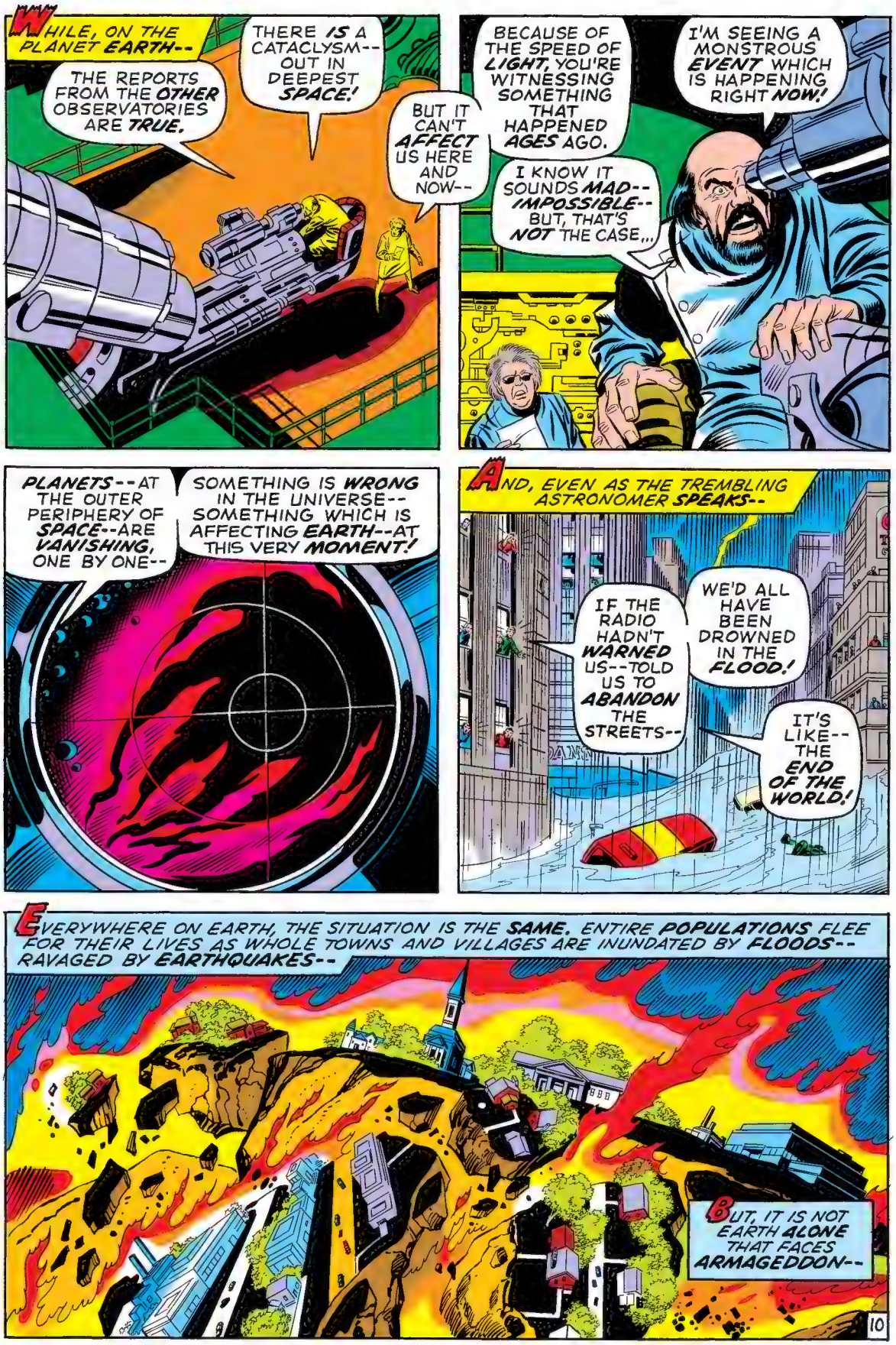

BUT HOLD! AGAIN A BOLT DOTH STRIKE-- FROM SPACE!
AGAIN INFINITY HATH BREATHED NEW STRENGTH INTO MY FOE!
AGAIN MUST THOR DO BATTLE--AGAIN SHALL MJOLNIR PREVAIL!
FOR ASGAAAARD!
'TIS DONE! SO LET IT BE!
NOW MUST I FIGHT THE ONE HE SERVES!
BUT STAY! ANOTHER BLAST DOTH STRIKE!
HE RISES --YET AGAIN!
NEVER CAN I FALL--
FOR INFINITY REVIVES ME!
I KNOW NOT WHOM--OR WHAT --INFINITY MAY BE--
BUT MARK THEE WELL--
THE THUNDER GOD DEFIES THEE BOTH!

THOU SEEKETH TO CRUSH THE SON OF ODIN WITH YON HAND-HELD BOULDER--
BUT, AS THOU ART STRONG, SO THOR IS STRONG!
AS THOU CANST FIGHT --SO THOR CANST FIGHT!
BUT--AS THOU BE MORTAL--
THOR BE GOD OF THUNDER!
NO LONGER SHALL INFINITY REVIVE THEE.
THOR CRIES ENOW-- AS MJOLNIR FLIES TO SERVE!
LET MY MALLET NOW SPIN 'ROUND THEE--
--AND IT SHALL FORM A SPHERE OF FORCE--
STRONG ENOUGH TO SHIELD THEE--FROM THE POWER OF INFINITY!
TO ME, MY MALLET!
OUR TASK HATH JUST BEGUN.
6

THOU WHO ART INFINITY-- TO THEE I SAY--
THOU CANST NOT HIDE FROM THOR FORE'ER.
NOT ALL THE MISTS--NOT ALL THE FOG--SHALL SHIELD THEE FROM MY WRATH.
FOR I BE GOD OF WIND AND STORM--
AND FOG AND MIST AS WELL.
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
BY MY COMMAND-- I BANISH THEM--
LET THERE BE MISTS-- NO MORE.
NOW DO I SEE THE BECKONING SKIES.
NOW DO I SEE WHERE MY SIRE DOTH FIGHT.
NOW SHALL THOR JOIN IN THE FRAY.
7

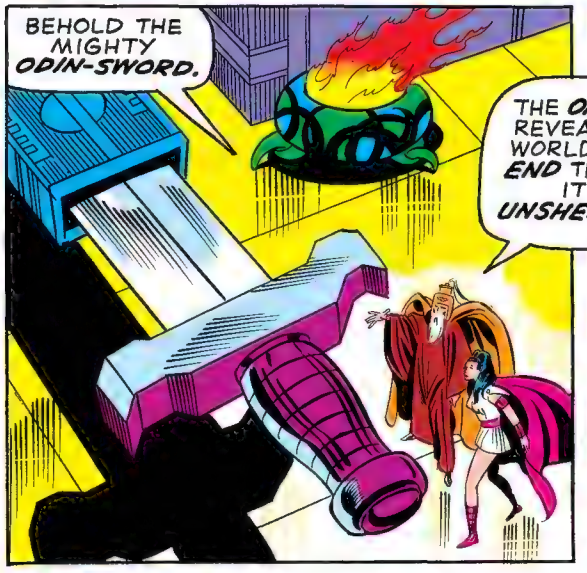
WHO DARES THREATEN ODIN--
--MUST LIKEWISE FACE HIS SON!
BUT LO, I SEE THE SILENT ONE.
HE STANDS AS IF TO BLOCK MY PATH.
STAND ASIDE, THOU GRIM AND GHASTLY HARBINGER OF DOOM.
ASIDE, I SAY--OR FEEL THE WRATH OF THOR.
PRINCELING-- STAY THY HAND.
THOU MUST NOT STRIKE THE SILENT ONE.
SO SPEAKS ODIN!
WHAT MADNESS DOTH MY FATHER UTTER?
WHAT? DAREST THOU TO QUESTION ME?
AM I NOT THE WORD AND THE WAY-- THE WISDOM AND THE LIGHT?
BUT, EVEN AS THOU SPEAKETH, SIRE--
ANOTHER WORLD DOTH VANISH-- IN THE CLUTCH OF HIM WHO IS INFINITY.
8

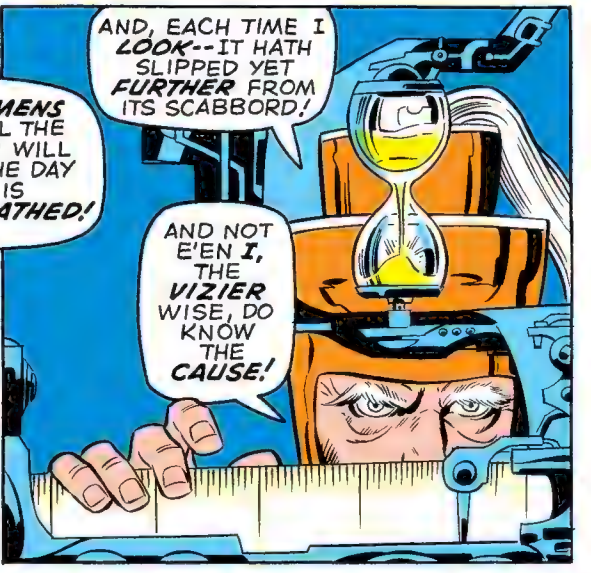
THERE IS MORE AT STAKE THAN MEETS MINE EYE.
THERE IS MUCH I DO NOT COMPREHEND.
I LIVE TO BATTLE. I LIVE TO SERVE.
YET, HIM IN WHOSE NAME THOR DOTH FIGHT-- STOPPETH ME AT EVERY TURN.
WHAT GOOD MY POWER? WHAT GOOD MY STRENGTH --IF I BE NOT FREE TO USE THEM?
THE SILENT ONE HATH HEARD MY WORDS.
HE TURNS, AND GESTURES WITH HIS HAND.
HE WOULD DEPART.. AND HE WOULD HAVE ME FOLLOW.
MAYHAP THE TIME AT LAST IS COME--
--WHEN THOR SHALL LEARN WHAT DOTH BEFALL.
SOMBER ONE, I'LL FOLLOW THEE-- BUT HEED YE WELL MY WORDS--
IF HARM BEFALL THE LIEGE I SERVE--THOU WILT FIND ME WITHOUT MERCY.


WHILE, ON THE PLANET EARTH--
THE REPORTS FROM THE OTHER OBSERVATORIES ARE TRUE.
THERE IS A CATACLYSM--OUT IN DEEPEST SPACE!
BUT IT CAN'T AFFECT US HERE AND NOW--
BECAUSE OF THE SPEED OF LIGHT, YOU'RE WITNESSING SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED AGES AGO.
I'M SEEING A MONSTROUS EVENT WHICH IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!
I KNOW IT SOUNDS MAD--IMPOSSIBLE--BUT, THAT'S NOT THE CASE...
PLANETS--AT THE OUTER PERIPHERY OF SPACE--ARE VANISHING, ONE BY ONE--
SOMETHING IS WRONG IN THE UNIVERSE--SOMETHING WHICH IS AFFECTING EARTH--AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
AND, EVEN AS THE TREMBLING ASTRONOMER SPEAKS--
IF THE RADIO HADN'T WARNED US--TOLD US TO ABANDON THE STREETS--
WE'D ALL HAVE BEEN DROWNED IN THE FLOOD!
IT'S LIKE--THE END OF THE WORLD!
EVERYWHERE ON EARTH, THE SITUATION IS THE SAME. ENTIRE POPULATIONS FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES AS WHOLE TOWNS AND VILLAGES ARE INUNDATED BY FLOODS--RAVAGED BY EARTHQUAKES--
BUT, IT IS NOT EARTH ALONE THAT FACES ARMAGEDDON--

EVEN IN ASGARD, COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SINISTER SHADOWS BEFORE THEM, AS--
SINCE THEIR RETURN FROM THE WORLD BEYOND, POOR VOLSTAGG, FANDRAL, AND HOGUN HAVE BEEN LIKE WARRIORS ENTRANCED.
'TIS WHY WE PLACE THEM IN A CELL, MY LADY.

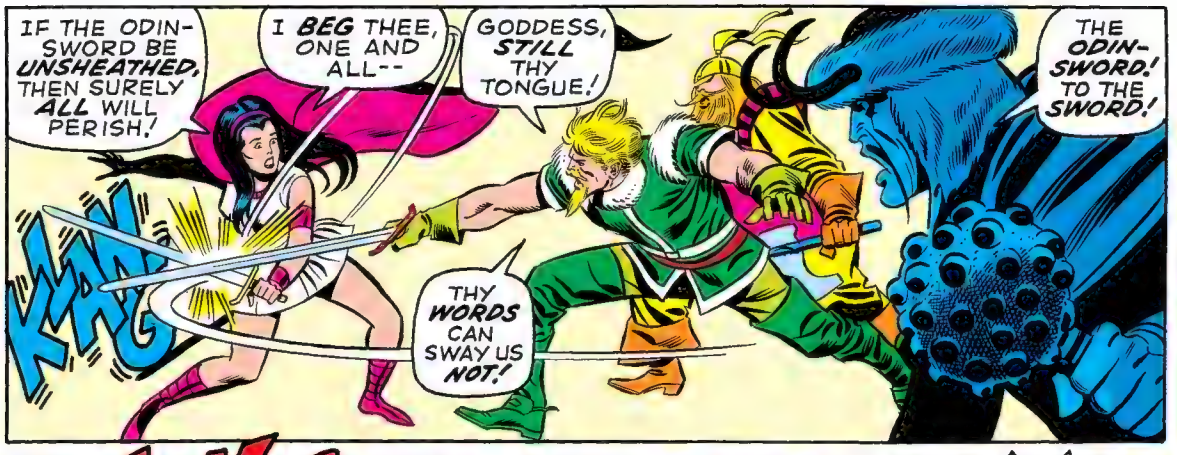
THERE MUST THEY REMAIN, 'TILL WE LEARN WHAT EVIL HATH POSSESSED THEM.
THE WORLD BEYOND! ITS VERY NAME DOTH FILL MY HEART WITH GRIM FOREBODING.
AY, BUT THERE IS MORE FOR US TO DREAD...

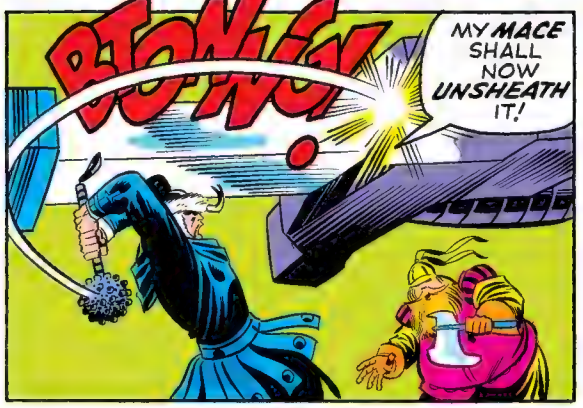

BEHOLD THE MIGHTY ODIN-SWORD.
THE OMENS REVEAL THE WORLD WILL END THE DAY IT IS UNSHEATHED!


AND, EACH TIME I LOOK--IT HATH SLIPPED YET FURTHER FROM ITS SCABBORD!
AND NOT E'EN I, THE VIZIER WISE, DO KNOW THE CAUSE!

AT THAT MOMENT--
NO CELL CAN HOLD US.
WE MUST SERVE-- INFINITY.
SO ONWARD --TO THE ODIN-SWORD!

STAND THEE ASIDE, MY LADY SIF.
YON SWORD MUST LEAVE ITS SCABBORD!
WOE TO ASGARD. THE CAPTIVES HAVE ESCAPED!
BRAVE FANDRAL-- NAY! THOU KNOW NOT WHAT THOU DOST!


IF THE ODIN-SWORD BE UNSHEATHED, THEN SURELY ALL WILL PERISH!
I BEG THEE, ONE AND ALL--
GODDESS, STILL THY TONGUE!
THE ODIN-SWORD! TO THE SWORD!
KLANG
THY WORDS CAN SWAY US NOT!


BTONG!
MY MACE SHALL NOW UNSHEATH IT!

I SAY THEE-- NEVER!
12

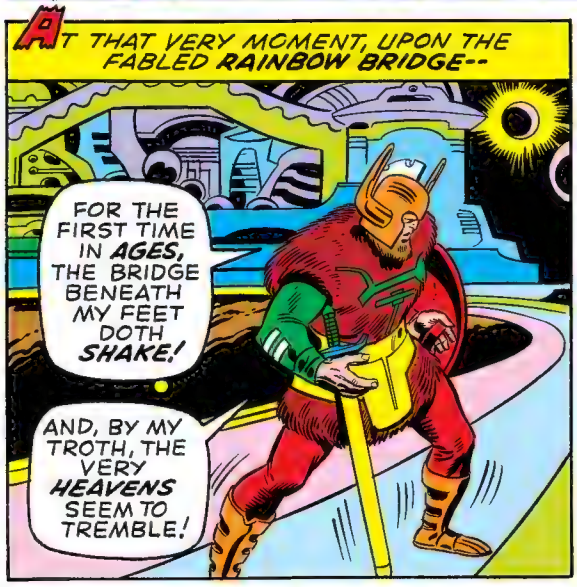
I KNOW NOT WHO--OR WHAT HATH SO POSSESSED THEE.
BUT NE'ER SHALT THINE INSANITY PREVAIL--
NE'ER WHILST BALDER LIVES!

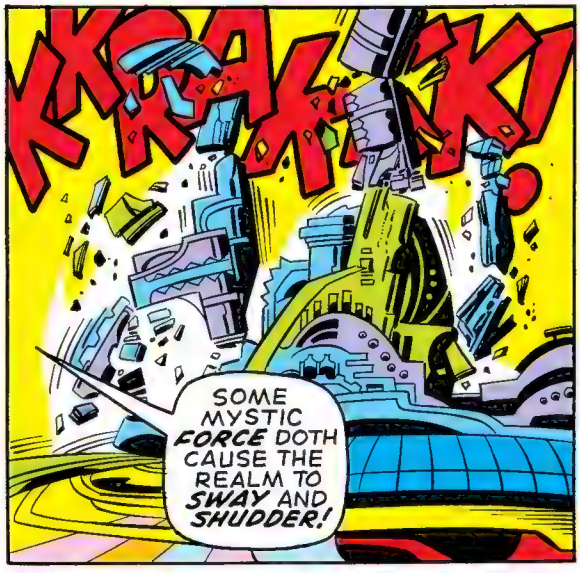
RASH ONE, TURN THEE BACK!
THINKEST THOU TO STAND AGAINST THE POWER OF VOLSTAGG'S ARM,?
THOU ART NOT THE VOLSTAGG I HAVE KNOWN--
FOR THOU SEEK TO STRIKE A COMRADE!
THAK!
BUT BALDER TOO CAN STRIKE!

HOLD! STILL WITH HOGUN MUST THOU DEAL!
THOU TOO,? THOU, CLOSER YET THAN BROTHER!
IF I MUST CALL GRIM HOGUN "FOE"--
THEN WHOM CAN I CALL "FRIEND"?
13

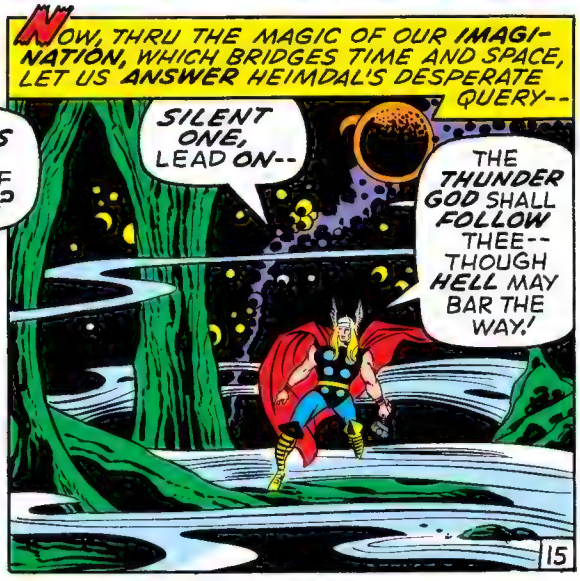
BYONNNG!
INFINITY HATH TURNED US ALL ONE AGAINST THE OTHER!
BUT, IN ODIN'S NAME--WE DO NOT YIELD!
THE ALARM HATH BEEN SOUNDED!
TO ARMS! THE ODIN-SWORD MUST BE PRESERVED!
WE GUARD IT WITH OUR BLOOD --OUR LIVES!
THE PALACE GUARD ATTACKS!
NOT EVEN WE CAN STEM THE ENDLESS TIDE!
BUT WE MUST FIGHT--UNTIL WE FALL!
BY INFINITY'S COMMAND!
THEY STRIKE LIKE DEMONS IN THEIR WRATH!
BUT WE ARE ASGARDIANS AS WELL--AND WE ARE MANY WHILE THEY ARE FEW!
BY FORCE OF ARM--AND WEIGHT OF NUMBER--WE HAVE WON THE DAY!
14

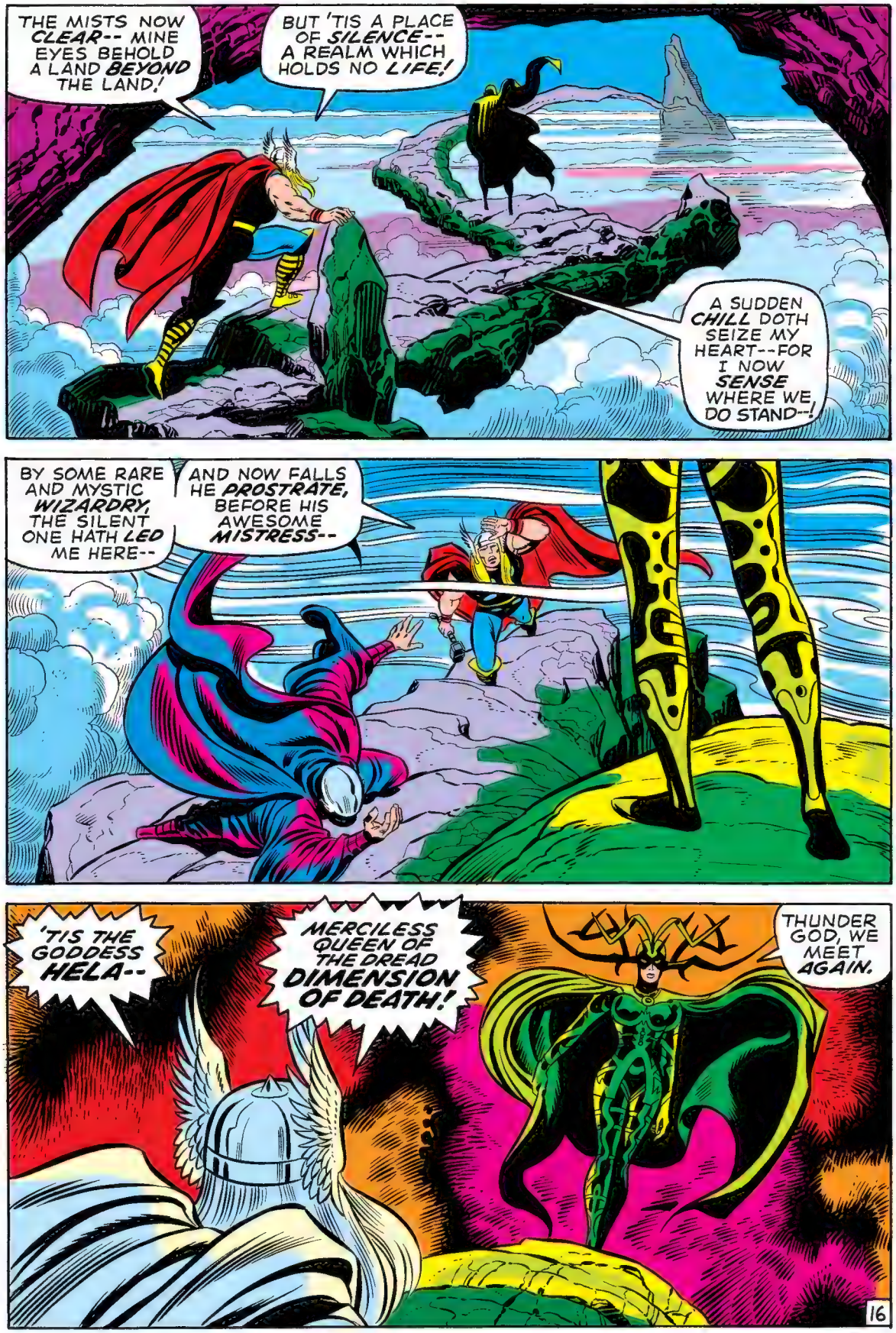
WEEP NO MORE, MY LADY. THE TRAITORS THREE ARE TO THEIR CELLS RETURNED!
ALAS, BRAVE BALDER-- I WEEP BECAUSE THEY BE NOT TRAITORS! INFINITY HATH SAPPED THEIR WILLS!
INFINITY! HIM WHO IS MASTER OF THE WORLD BEYOND!
HE DOTH THREATEN A UNIVERSE-- AND WE KNOW NOT WHO HE BE!
EACH PASSING DAY BRINGS US CLOSER TO DOOM...
AND YET, IN THIS--OUR DARKEST HOUR--WHERE IS ODIN? WHERE IS THOR?
WHERE IS THERE HOPE-- FOR ASGARD?

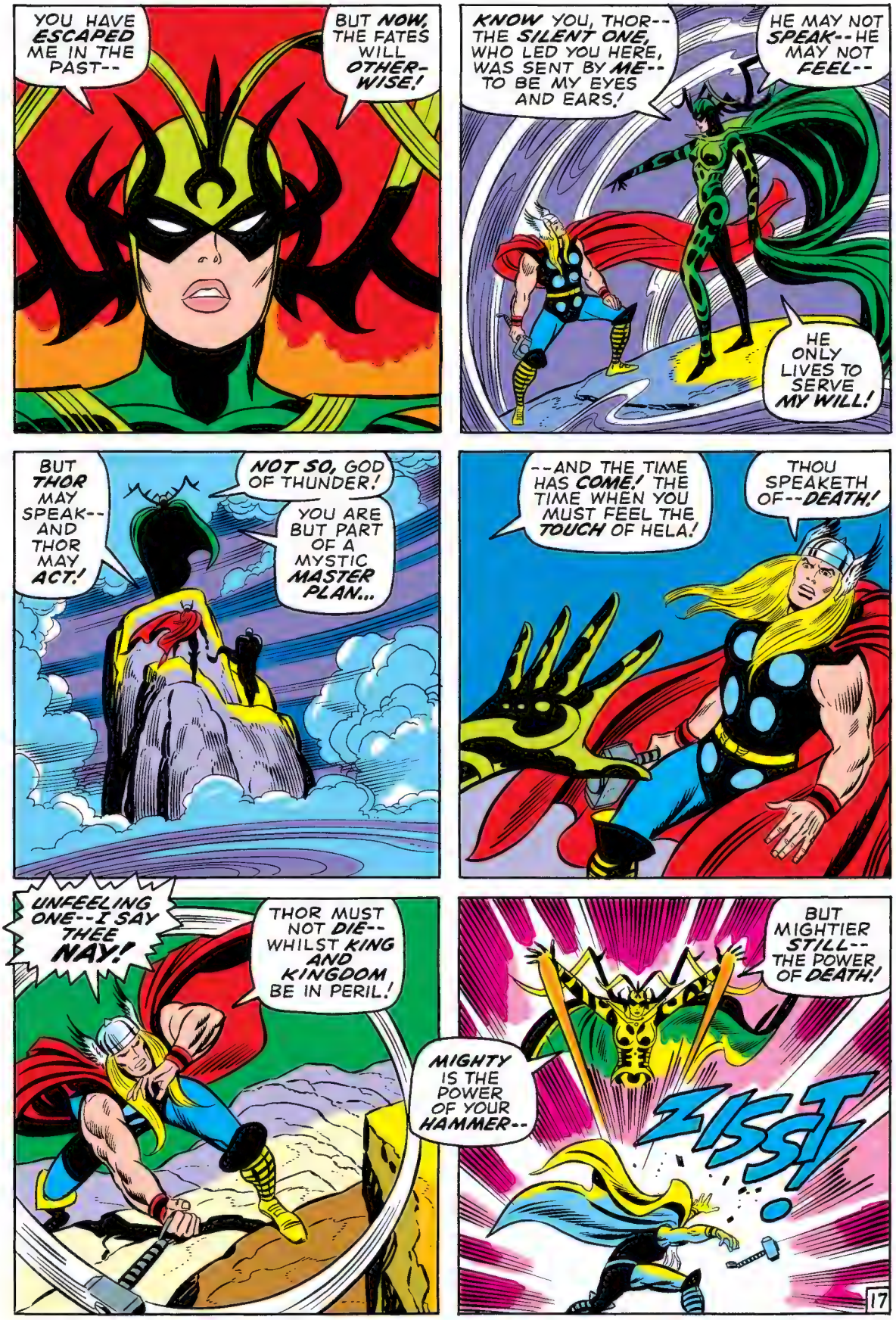

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, UPON THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE--
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES, THE BRIDGE BENEATH MY FEET DOTH SHAKE!
AND, BY MY TROTH, THE VERY HEAVENS SEEM TO TREMBLE!


KRAK!
SOME MYSTIC FORCE DOTH CAUSE THE REALM TO SWAY AND SHUDDER!

BUT, IN ALL THE WORLD-- WHO HAS THE POWER?
AND WHERE BE ODIN-- AND MIGHTY THOR--
IN THIS OUR TIME OF NEED?


NOW, THRU THE MAGIC OF OUR IMAGI-NATION, WHICH BRIDGES TIME AND SPACE, LET US ANSWER HEIMDAL'S DESPERATE QUERY--
SILENT ONE, LEAD ON--
THE THUNDER GOD SHALL FOLLOW THEE-- THOUGH HELL MAY BAR THE WAY!


THE MISTS NOW CLEAR-- MINE EYES BEHOLD A LAND BEYOND THE LAND!
BUT 'TIS A PLACE OF SILENCE-- A REALM WHICH HOLDS NO LIFE!
A SUDDEN CHILL DOTH SEIZE MY HEART--FOR I NOW SENSE WHERE WE DO STAND--!
BY SOME RARE AND MYSTIC WIZARDRY, THE SILENT ONE HATH LED ME HERE--
AND NOW FALLS HE PROSTRATE, BEFORE HIS AWESOME MISTRESS--
'TIS THE GODDESS HELA--
MERCILESS QUEEN OF THE DREAD DIMENSION OF DEATH!
THUNDER GOD, WE MEET AGAIN.
16


YOU HAVE ESCAPED ME IN THE PAST--
BUT NOW, THE FATES WILL OTHER-WISE!
KNOW YOU, THOR-- THE SILENT ONE, WHO LED YOU HERE, WAS SENT BY ME-- TO BE MY EYES AND EARS!
HE MAY NOT SPEAK--HE MAY NOT FEEL--
HE ONLY LIVES TO SERVE MY WILL!
BUT THOR MAY SPEAK-- AND THOR MAY ACT!
NOT SO, GOD OF THUNDER!
YOU ARE BUT PART OF A MYSTIC MASTER PLAN...
--AND THE TIME HAS COME! THE TIME WHEN YOU MUST FEEL THE TOUCH OF HELA!
THOU SPEAKETH OF--DEATH!
UNFEELING ONE--I SAY THEE NAY!
THOR MUST NOT DIE-- WHILST KING AND KINGDOM BE IN PERIL!
MIGHTY IS THE POWER OF YOUR HAMMER--
BUT MIGHTIER STILL-- THE POWER OF DEATH!
ZISS!
17

THUNDER GOD-- ACCEPT YOUR FATE.
NONE MAY CHALLENGE HELA'S WILL.
YOU HAVE LIVED AND FOUGHT LIKE A WARRIOR BORN--
AND, LIKE A WARRIOR BORN--YOU DIE!
I--SAY THEE--NAY...
AS--THOR DIDST FIGHT-- IN LIFE--
E'EN IN DEATH--SO SHALL I--FIGHT!
I'LL HEAR NO MORE. I'LL SEE NO MORE!
THE DEED IS DONE. THUS, HELA SHALL BEGONE.
LET MY FADING FORM --BE YOUR FINAL MEMORY.
COME BACK-- COME BACK...
THOR-- DOTH NOT-- YIELD...
18

THOUGH HELA HATH DEPARTED--THE SILENT ONE REMAINS--
I SEEM TO SEE--A SINGLE TEAR--WELLING IN HIS EYE.
HE REACHES OUT! HE DOTH SEEK--TO TOUCH ME.
OUR FINGERS--MET! AND NOW--
A MIRACLE--DOTH COME TO PASS!
NEW LIFE NOW SURGES THRU MY LIMBS!
I KNOW NOT HOW--I KNOW NOT WHY--
BUT--THERE BE THUNDER IN MY BLOOD ONCE MORE!
O, MOST NOBLE SILENT ONE--
THOU--OF WHOM 'TWAS SAID--"HE MAY NOT FEEL"--
THOU--HATH GIVEN THY LIFE--THAT THOR MIGHT LIVE!
I PRAY THAT I BE--WORTHY.
ONWARD THEN--THRU TIME AND SPACE--
I MUST REJOIN LORD ODIN!
19

AND EVEN AS THE THUNDER GOD SPEAKS--
INFINITY DOTH COME EVER CLOSER--CLOSER--
AT LAST I SHALL GAZE UPON HIS FACE!
AT LAST I SHALL KNOW HIM WHOSE POWER DOTH EQUAL MINE!
LORD OF ASGARD --DID YOU NOT SUSPECT?
NAY! I SAY THEE--NAY!
IT CANNOT BE THEE! NOT THEE!
NOT THEE!
MY FATHER'S ANGUISHED VOICE DOTH ECHO THRU THE COSMOS!
THE SHADOW OF INFINITY DOTH SLOWLY OVERWHELM HIM!
MY LIEGE--TAKE HEART!
THINE AVENGING SON DOTH JOIN THE FRAY!
BUT--THY FACE! THE EXPRESSION IN THINE EYES--
THOU ART NO LONGER THE FATHER I HAVE KNOWN!
I AM ODIN!
AND I SERVE--INFINITY!
NOW ALL IS TRULY LOST!
MOST LORDLY ODIN HATH BEEN HIMSELF--POSSESSED!
NEXT
THOR VS. ODIN!
20

THOR
15¢
187
APR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ODIN GOES MAD!
FATHER VS SON!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE WORLD IS LOST!
TRULY MARVEL'S GREATEST EPIC!

THE MIGHTY THOR!
MINE OWN FATHER-- ODIN-- HATH TURNED AGAINST ME! AND SO---
THE WORLD IS LOST!
HE HATH BEEN POSSESSED--BY THE POWER OF INFINITY! HE KNOWS NOT WHAT HE DOES!
HE COMES CLOSER--CLOSER --TO STRIKE--TO SLAY HIS TRUE-BORN SON!
A SAGA TO STAGGER YOUR IMAGINATION!
545-2
By:
STAN LEE, AUTHOR
JOHN BUSCEMA ILLUSTRATOR
JOE SINNOTT EMBELLISHER
SAM ROSEN LETTERER

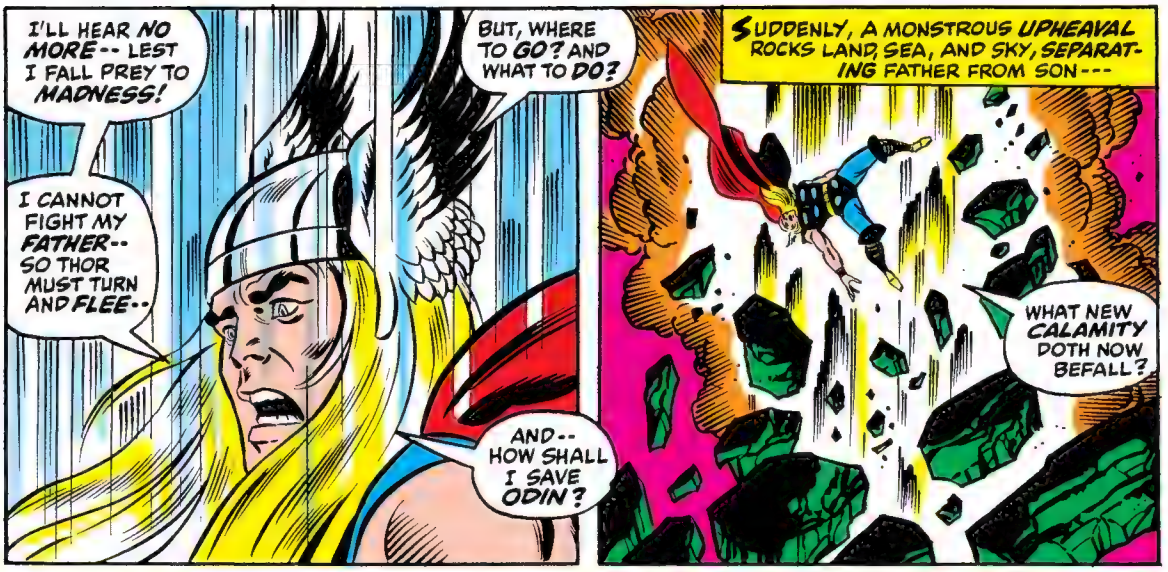
ODIN SERVES-- INFINITY!
AND THOU ART ENEMY TO MY MASTER!
THUS--THE THUNDER GOD MUST DIE!
FATHER-- NAY! 'TIS THOU WHO ART MASTER!
DOOMED ONE, STILL THY TONGUE!
ALL WHO LIVE MUST SERVE INFINITY!
MY WORDS REACH ONLY HIS EARS.
HIS MIND IS CLOSED TO ME.
HOW HATH THE LORD OF ALL BEEN THUS POSSESSED?
WHO HATH DONE THIS VILE DEED?
"SURELY 'TWAS NOT THE SILENT ONE, WHO APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AND UTTERED NOT A SOUND."*
SPEAK, OR FACE THE WRATH OF THOR.
* THIS LITTLE MEMORY-REFRESHER IS FROM THE PAST FEW ISSUES, OF COURSE -- STAN
"IN MINE IGNORANCE, I STRUCK AT HIM, BUT---"
NOT E'EN MJOLNIR CAN DRIVE THEE BACK!
"TWAS HE WHO FOLLOWED LORDLY ODIN, TO THE DEADLY WORLD BEYOND--"
ODIN HATH GONE-- TO PROBE THE SECRET OF --INFINITY.
"INFINITY-- UNSEEN-- UNKNOWN-- WHO SEIZES WORLDS AS IF THEY BE BUT TOYS."
2.

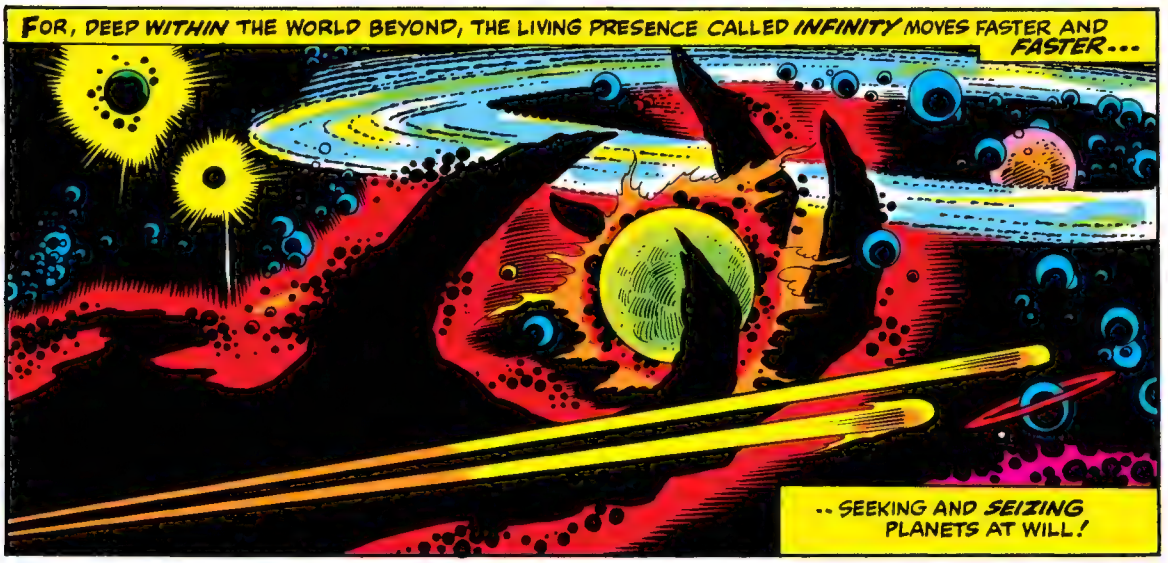
"WHILST, BACK IN ASGARD--"
THE ODIN-SWORD DOTH FROM ITS SCABBARD SLIP.
IF IT BE UNSHEATHED, 'TIS SAID THE WORLD SHALL END!
"THEN, MY LIEGE RETURNED--IN SPIRIT FORM--AND, IN SPIRIT FORM DIDST SPEAK--"
THE WORLD BEYOND COMES CLOSER!
INFINITY! INFINITY!
INFINITY!
"NO LONGER DARED I WAIT! TO MY FATHER'S AID SPED THOR! BUT, WHEN I REACHED THE WORLD BEYOND--"
DEATH TO HIM WHO DARES TO TRESPASS!
NONE MAY FIND INFINITY! SO SPEAKS THE GUARDIAN!
THEN THOU SHALT FALL AS WELL.
SO SPEAKS THOR!
"AND WHILST I FOUGHT TO REACH HIS SIDE, ODIN STOOD ALONE--BRAVING THE ONSLAUGHT OF--INFINITY!"
BE THOU MAN--OR GOD--OR DEVIL--
I SHALL DRIVE THEE BACK!
AND AFTER ME SHALL COME--MY SON!
"BUT THE GODDESS OF DEATH THOUGHT OTHERWISE--"
THOU CANST NOT CHANGE THE MASTER PLAN!
SO, THOR MUST DIE!
"ONCE STRUCK BY HELA, THE RAVAGES OF AGE DIDST BRING ME TO THE BRINK--"
I GROW WITHERED AND OLD WITH EVERY HEART-BEAT---
BUT I MUST NOT DIE! NOT NOW--NOT NOW!
"THEN, THOUGH HE SERVED THE DEADLY HELA, THE SILENT ONE DID GIVE HIS LIFE TO SPARE THE GOD OF THUNDER--"
MY LIMBS GROW STRONG--I LIVE AGAIN--
THE SILENT ONE HATH SAVED ME.
"AND AS HE FELL--AND AS I ROSE--MIGHTY ODIN SAW AT LAST THE TRUE FACE OF THE FOE..."
INFINITY!
IT CANNOT BE THEE! IT CANNOT BE THEE!
I SAY THEE NO! NOT THEE!
"I KNOW NOT WHAT MY FATHER SAW--BUT THIS I KNOW, FULL WELL--"
"THE SIGHT HAD DRIVEN ODIN MAD! FOR, NOW HE SERVES INFINITY--AND SEEKS TO SLAY HIS GRIEVING SON!"
DEATH TO HIM WHO STANDS NOT FOR--INFINITY!
3
AND NOW, BACK TO THE PRESENT...

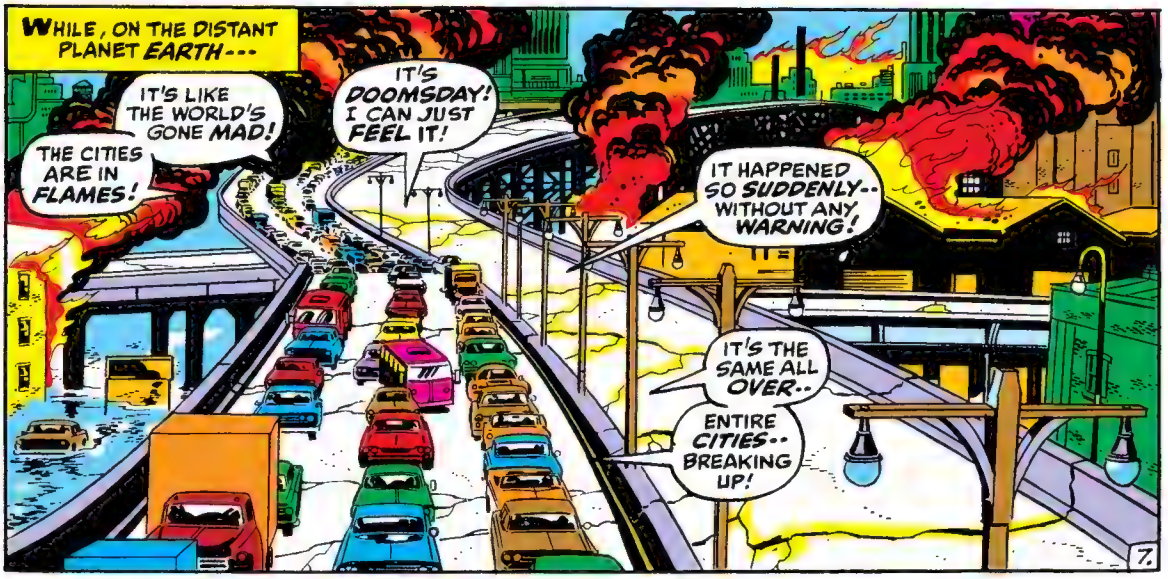
HEAR ME, SIRE, FOR I BE FLESH OF THY FLESH, BLOOD OF THY BLOOD.
I HAVE NO KITH -- I HAVE NO KIN--
I LIVE TO SERVE.. THE WORLD BEYOND!
HE GIRDS TO STRIKE!! SO I MUST FLY--
ZROKK!
HE IS BEYOND SPEECH-- BEYOND REASON--
THOUGH HE HATH THE LOOK OF ODIN -- HIS BODY IS EMPTY! HIS SOUL DOTH SLUMBER!
BUT STILL THOR CAN-NOT STRIKE THE ALL-FATHER!
YET, FIGHT I MUST--
-- LEST ALL WHO LIVE BE DOOMED!
BUT THE ENEMY IS NOT ODIN!
'TIS INFINITY WHO HATH SAPPED HIS WILL.
YET, IF ODIN COULD NOT CRUSH THE FOE --
THEN HOW SHALL THOR PREVAIL?
NONE IS ODIN'S MASTER.. YET ODIN HATH SUCCUMBED!
HIM WHO IS UN-BEATABLE -- HATH TASTED TRUE DEFEAT!
IT CANNOT BE -- AND YET, IT IS!
AND THOR MUST FATHOM HOW!
4

WHAT? DIDST THOU THINK TO HIDE FROM ME?
RASH YOUTH -- NOW FEEL MY WRATH --
I PRAY THEE, FATHER -- STAY THY HAND --
FOR I HAVE COME TO AID THEE!
LYING KNAVE -- I'LL HEAR NO MORE!
THOU SHALT NOT SWAY ME WITH UNTRUTHS!
THEN MUST I FLEE -- WHILST THERE BE TIME.
NOT EVEN FLIGHT SHALL SAVE THEE!
AGAIN HE STRIKES -- AND YET AGAIN --
BUT I CANNOT TURN AGAINST HIM!
'TIS NOT THE FATHER I HAVE KNOWN -- WHO STRIKES IN SENSELESS RAGE.
THUS, THOR MUST RUN -- AND THOR MUST HIDE --
-- UNTIL THE MADNESS PASSES.
BENEATH MY FEET I'LL BLAST A PIT --
AND THEREIN SEEK ME SHELTER.
FOR I MUST PAUSE -- AND THINK -- AND PLAN --
-- WITH A UNIVERSE AT STAKE!
5

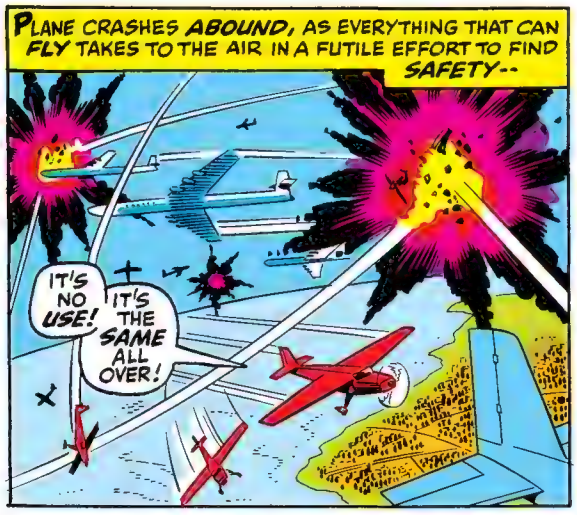
IN A WAY, 'TIS FORTUNATE MY FATHER IS ENTRANCED...
IT HATH DULLED HIS BRAIN AND SLOWED HIS LIMBS--
--ELSE THOR WOULD BE UNDONE!
BUT EVEN NOW THE STONE DOTH CRUMBLE--
EVEN NOW MY RESPITE ENDS!
GOD OF THUNDER, HEAR MY WORDS..
SWEAR OBEDIENCE TO INFINITY..
OR DIE!
I SAY THEE NAY!
INFINITY SHALL BE DESTROYED!-
AND THOU SHALT BE ODIN AS THOU WERT!
THEN PAY THE PRICE FOR THY DEFIANCE.
THE ODIN-FLAME NOW DRIVES ME BACK!
BUT, I BE GOD OF THUNDER STILL!
NOW SHALL THE STORM COME TO MINE AID--
WHRRRRRR
RRRK
THOU HAST SENT THE FLOOD TO QUENCH MY FLAME.
BUT 'TWILL AVAIL THEE NAUGHT!
'TWAS I WHO MADE THEE WHAT THOU ART--
'TWAS I WHO GAVE THEE GODLY POWER.
FOR I AM THE WILL, THE WORD, AND THE WAY!
AND I SAY THEE NOW-- THOU MUST FALL!
6

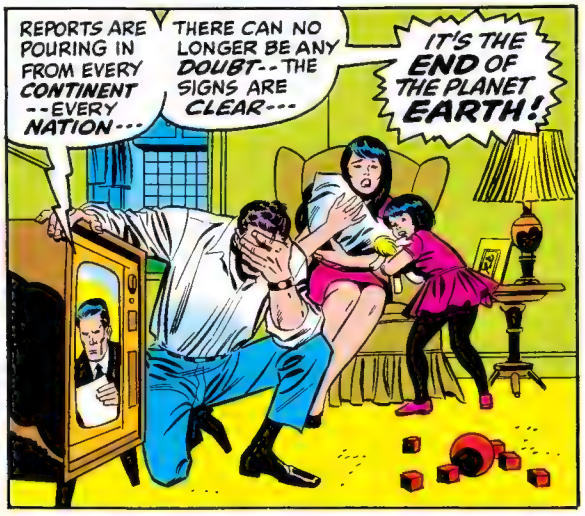

I'LL HEAR NO MORE-- LEST I FALL PREY TO MADNESS!
I CANNOT FIGHT MY FATHER-- SO THOR MUST TURN AND FLEE--
BUT, WHERE TO GO? AND WHAT TO DO?
AND-- HOW SHALL I SAVE ODIN?
SUDDENLY, A MONSTROUS UPHEAVAL ROCKS LAND, SEA, AND SKY, SEPARATING FATHER FROM SON---
WHAT NEW CALAMITY DOTH NOW BEFALL?

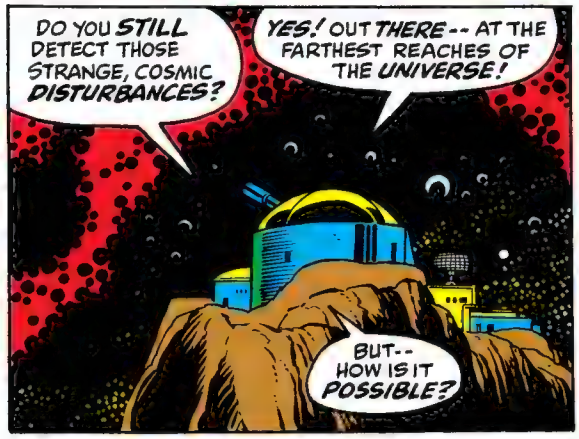

FOR, DEEP WITHIN THE WORLD BEYOND, THE LIVING PRESENCE CALLED INFINITY MOVES FASTER AND FASTER---
-- SEEKING AND SEIZING PLANETS AT WILL!


WHILE, ON THE DISTANT PLANET EARTH---
IT'S LIKE THE WORLD'S GONE MAD!
THE CITIES ARE IN FLAMES!
IT'S DOOMSDAY! I CAN JUST FEEL IT!
IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY-- WITHOUT ANY WARNING!
IT'S THE SAME ALL OVER--
ENTIRE CITIES-- BREAKING UP!

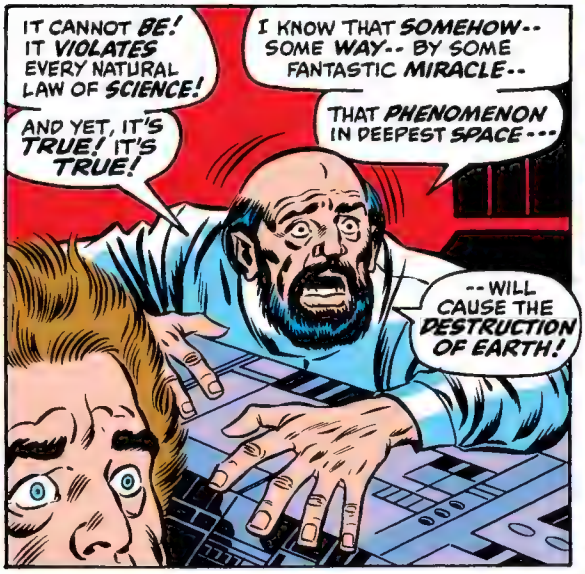
GOTTA GET A CAR! GOTTA GET A RIDE OUT OF TOWN! CAN'T STAY BEHIND-- CAN'T STAY HERE TO DIE!
WHERE ARE WE RUNNING TO? WHAT'S THE GOOD OF IT? THINGS ARE NO BETTER ANYWHERE ELSE.
THE PIPES HAVE BURST! THE STREETS ARE FLOODED!
HELP! HELP US! DO SOME-THING!
THERE'S NOTHIN' WE CAN DO! THE WHOLE WORLD'S FALLIN' APART!
GET HOME WITH YOUR FAMILIES-- WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
REPEN YOUR SINS
THE END IS HERE!
FLY AIRWAYS


PLANE CRASHES ABOUND, AS EVERYTHING THAT CAN FLY TAKES TO THE AIR IN A FUTILE EFFORT TO FIND SAFETY--
IT'S NO USE!
IT'S THE SAME ALL OVER!


REPORTS ARE POURING IN FROM EVERY CONTINENT --EVERY NATION---
THERE CAN NO LONGER BE ANY DOUBT-- THE SIGNS ARE CLEAR---
IT'S THE END OF THE PLANET EARTH!

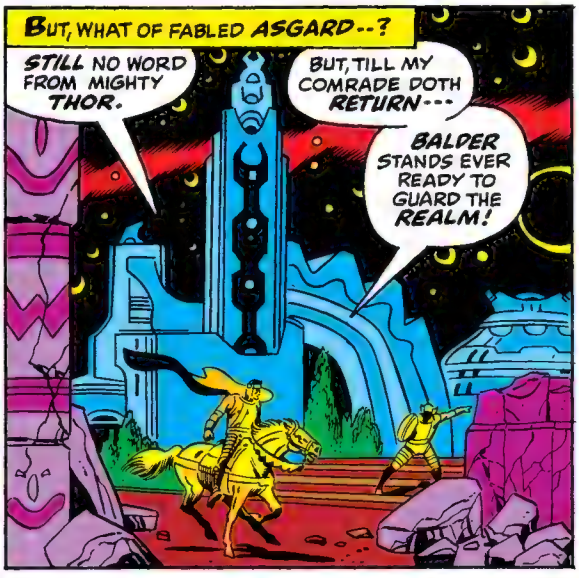

DO YOU STILL DETECT THOSE STRANGE, COSMIC DISTURBANCES?
YES! OUT THERE-- AT THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE!
BUT-- HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

HOW CAN SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY--
AFFECT US NOW-- HERE ON EARTH?
I WISH I KNEW!


IT CANNOT BE! IT VIOLATES EVERY NATURAL LAW OF SCIENCE!
I KNOW THAT SOMEHOW-- SOME WAY-- BY SOME FANTASTIC MIRACLE--
AND YET, IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!
THAT PHENOMENON IN DEEPEST SPACE---
--WILL CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH!

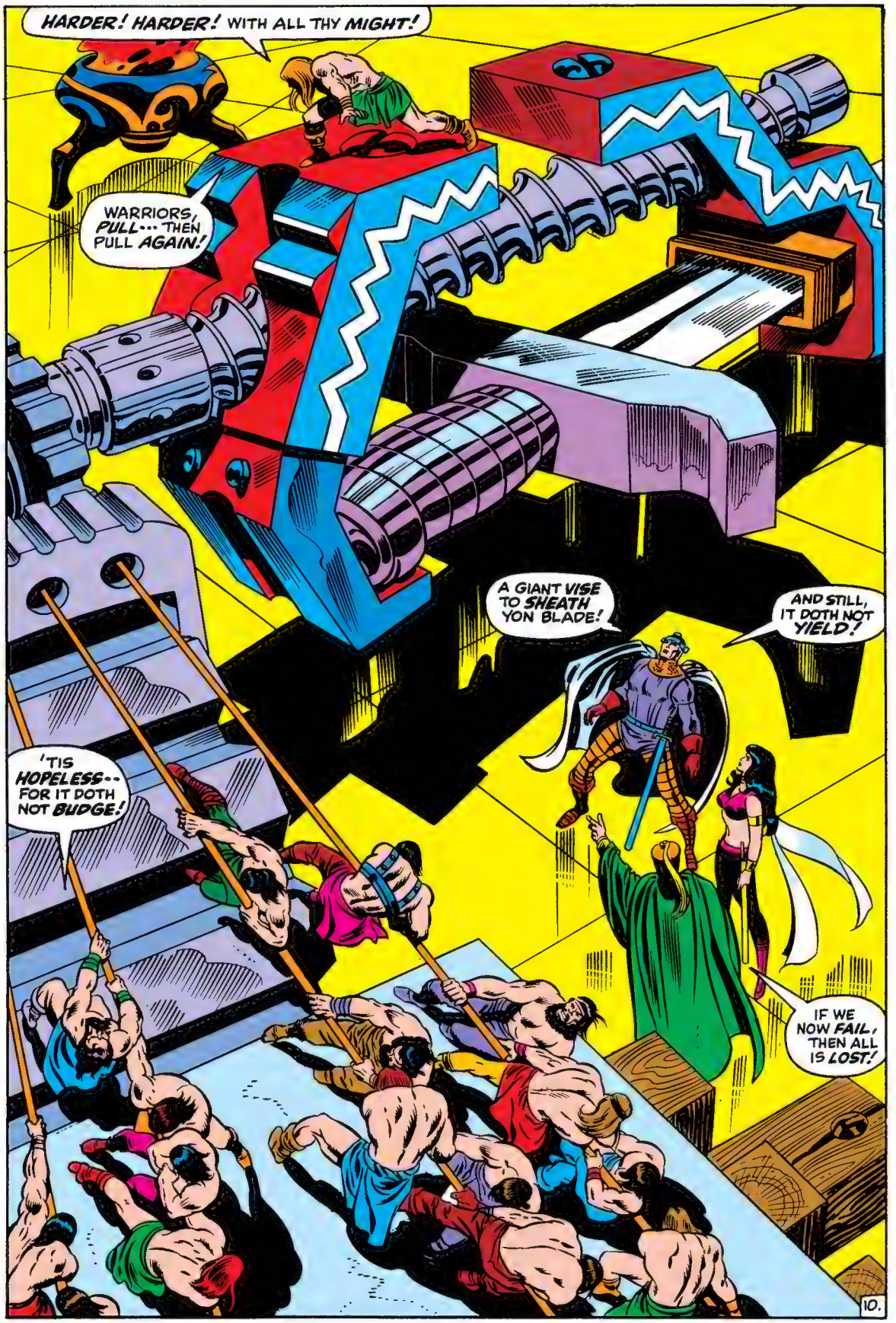
BUT, IN THE WAR ROOMS OF THE WORLD, NOTHING EVER CHANGES...
IT IS A DIRTY, CAPITALISTIC, IMPERIALIST TRICK!
THE WESTERN WAR-MONGERS WILL STOP AT NOTHING!
THE TIME HAS COME TO MOBILIZE!
THEY MUST NOT CATCH US NAPPING!

MR. PRESIDENT, UNTIL WE'RE CERTAIN THAT THE REDS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE, I SAY WE SEND THE SIXTH FLEET TO--
GENTLEMEN, GENTLEMEN! FIRST, LET ME MAKE ONE THING PERFECTLY CLEAR--
WE MUSTN'T FLY OFF THE HANDLE--- WITH ELECTIONS COMING UP.


BUT, WHAT OF FABLED ASGARD--?
STILL NO WORD FROM MIGHTY THOR.
BUT, TILL MY COMRADE DOTH RETURN---
BALDER STANDS EVER READY TO GUARD THE REALM!

MY LADY SIF! I COME IN ANSWER TO THY SUMMONS.
BRAVE BALDER-- I PREY THAT THOU ART NOT TOO LATE!
THE ODIN-SWORD MOVES EVER FURTHER--

IT HAS ALMOST LEFT ITS SCABBARD!
AND WE ARE POWERLESS TO HALT IT!
BUT NAY! IT MUST NEVER BE UNSHEATHED--
--LEST THE WORLD SHALL END!


HARDER! HARDER! WITH ALL THY MIGHT!
WARRIORS, PULL··· THEN PULL AGAIN!
A GIANT VISE TO SHEATH YON BLADE!
AND STILL, IT DOTH NOT YIELD!
'TIS HOPELESS··· FOR IT DOTH NOT BUDGE!
IF WE NOW FAIL, THEN ALL IS LOST!

NONE BUT LORDLY ODIN CAN SHEATH THE MYSTIC BLADE.
BUT, WHAT IF HE DOTH NOT RETURN?
THEN ALL WHO LIVE-- SHALL DIE!

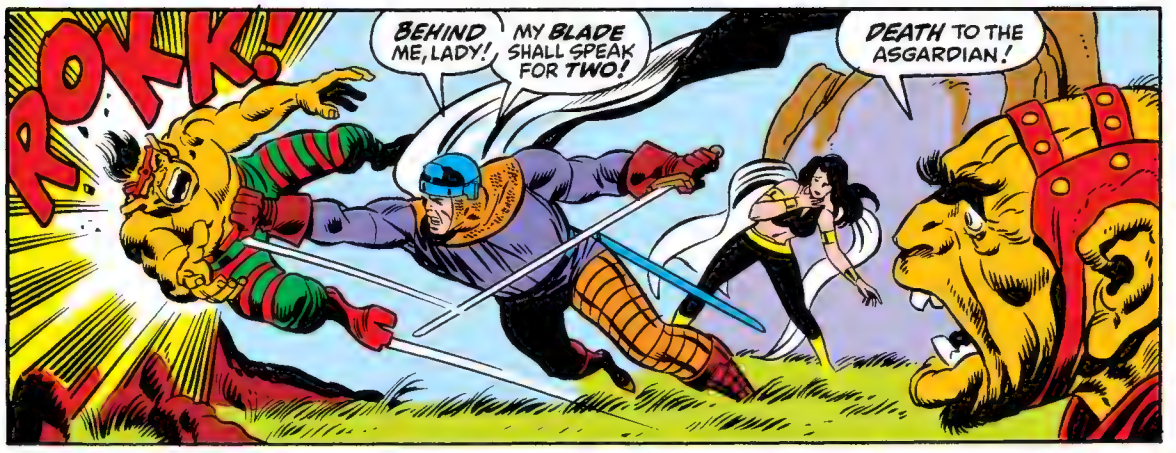
WHERE GOEST THOU NOW, MOST LOYAL BALDER?
I SEEK KARNILLA, WITCH QUEEN OF THE NORNS!
THEN SIF SHALL RIDE WITH THEE.

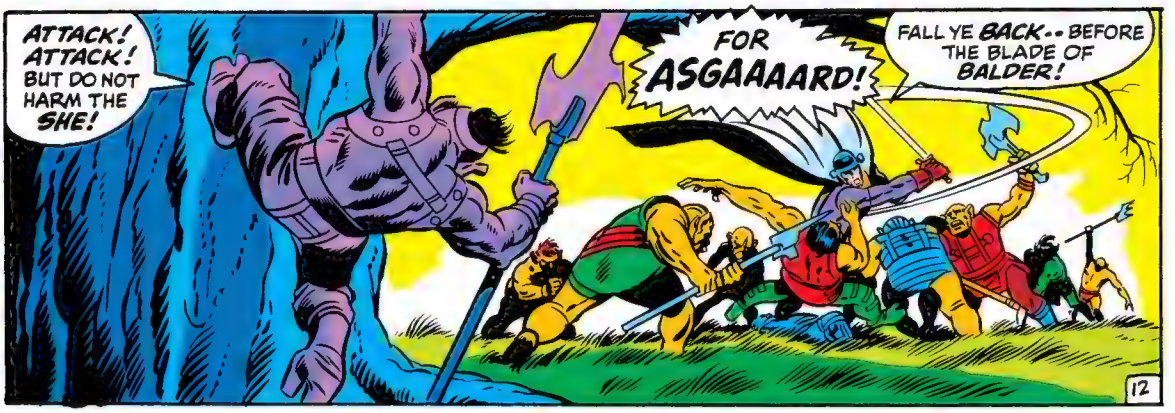
ASGARD HATH NEED OF EVERY BLADE---
FOR, THEY BE 'NEATH A MYSTIC SPELL--- WHICH KEEPETH THEM ENTRANCED.
BUT FANDRAL, AND HOGUN, AND VOLSTAGG TOO, ARE LOST TO US THIS DAY.
THEN THOU SHALT ASK THE WITCH QUEEN TO GIVE THEE AID?

AY! THOUGH SHE BE OUR ENEMY SWORN--
SHE DID ONCE PROFESS TO LOVE ME-
BUT, CANST THOU TRUST A WITCH'S HEART?

HOLD, ASGARDIANS! YOU ARE CAPTIVES OF THE TROLLS!

AND I CLAIM THE SHE AS MY RIGHTFUL PRIZE!
NOT WHILST BALDER LIVES!


ROKK!
BEHIND ME, LADY!
MY BLADE SHALL SPEAK FOR TWO!
DEATH TO THE ASGARDIAN!


ATTACK! ATTACK! BUT DO NOT HARM THE SHE!
FOR ASGAAAARD!
FALL YE BACK-- BEFORE THE BLADE OF BALDER!
12

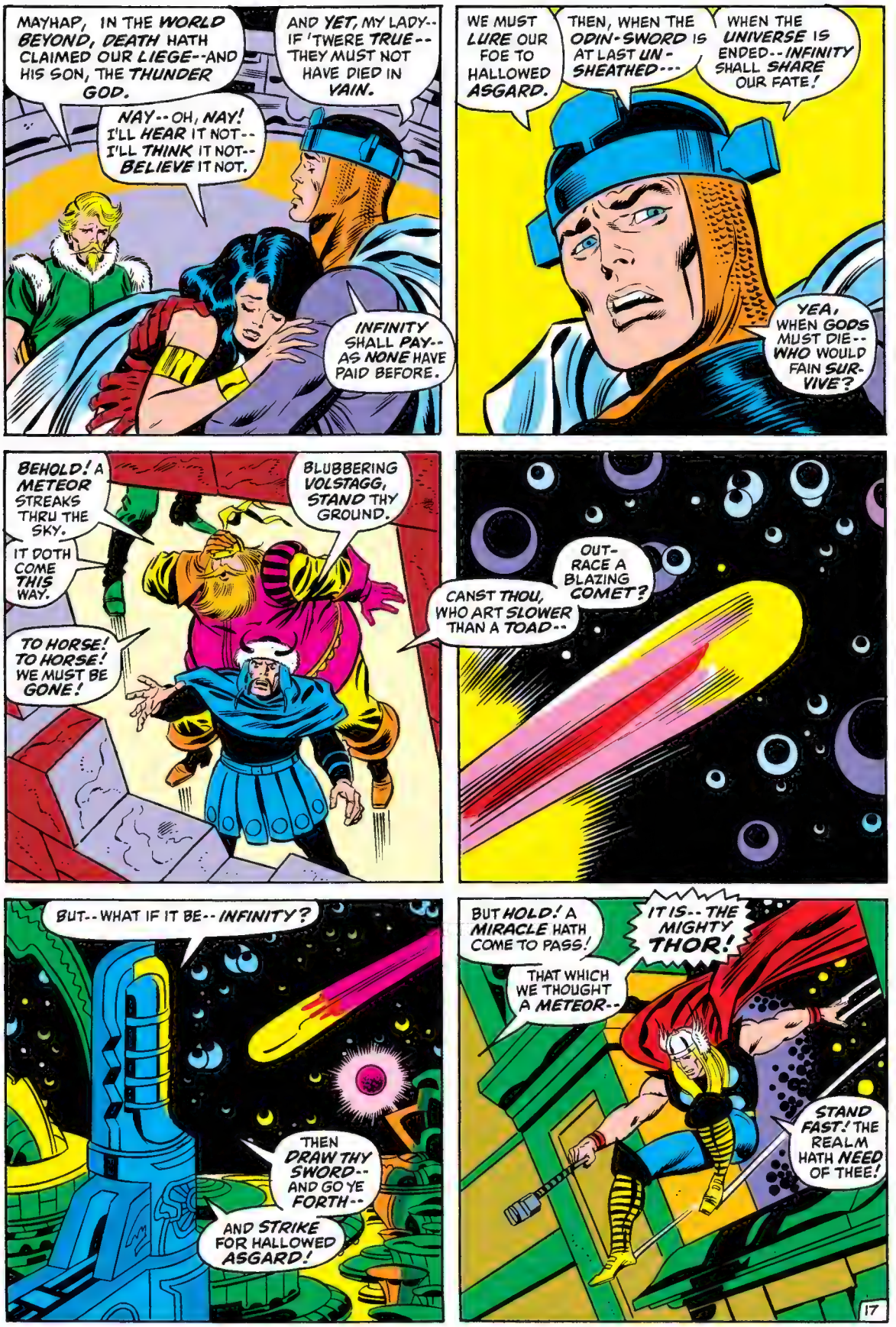
SKREEEEE
A WINGED DRAGON DRIVES THEM BACK!
HE TOO SHALL TASTE MY BLADE.

BUT SEE--- HE HOVERS OVERHEAD!
AND NOW HE MAKES AS IF TO LAND-- HE SLOWLY CIRCLES ROUND--
IF HE THINKS THAT WE BE EASY PREY...
MY BLADE WILL TELL HIM TRUE!
HE TAKETH NOT HIS EYES FROM THEE!
13

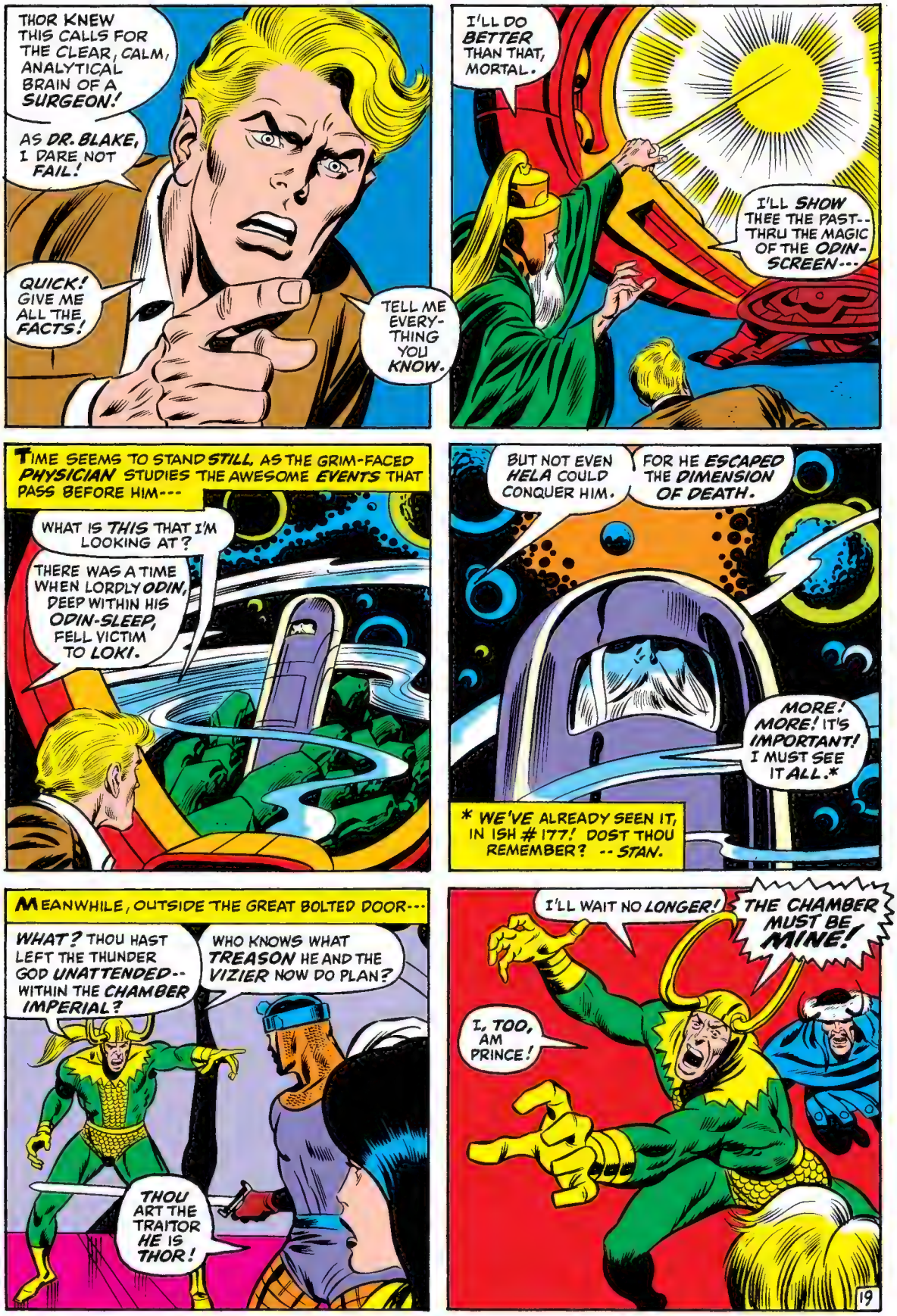
BEHOLD! I AM MORE THAN YOU SEE-- AND LESS THAN I AM!
FOR LIFE ITSELF IS JUST ILLUSION--
AND WHAT IS REAL? AND WHAT IS DREAM?
KARNILLA! THE DRAGON WAS THEE!
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?
YOU KNOW YOU ARE MY MORTAL FOE!
BUT EVEN FOES CAN JOIN IN MUTUAL CAUSE!
THERE IS A SPELL THAT ONLY THOU CANST BREAK.
SPEAK ON, ASGARDIAN.
SECONDS LATER---
--AND SO, IF THOU CANST FREE MY COMRADES, FROM THE BONDAGE OF THEIR MINDS--
WILT THOU BE GRATEFUL, BALDER?
ALL ASGARD WILL BE IN THY DEBT.
SPEAK NOT OF ASGARD, WARRIOR.
'TIS ONLY THEE I LOVE.
AND ONE DAY THOU SHALT LOVE ME TOO!
RETURN TO WHENCE THOU CAME, I SAY--
KARNILLA SOON SHALL FOLLOW.
14

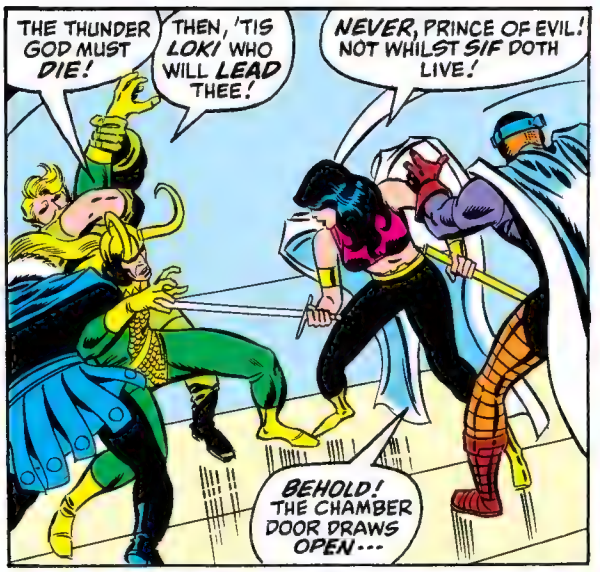
I HEAR HER HOOFBEATS NOT, BRAVE BALDER.
NAY, SHE FLIES AGAIN -- IN DRAGON FORM.
SHE KEEPS HER WORD, MY LADY!
LATER, IN THE GREAT CASTLE CHAMBER--
LET ALL STAND SILENT WHILE THE NORN QUEEN SPEAKS.
WHAT MAGIC HATH WROUGHT-- LET MY SPELL UNRAVEL.
LET THE GLEAMING JEWEL OF FIRE BURN THE SHADOWS FROM THY MINDS.
KARNILLA COMMANDS! LET MY WORD BE DEED!
LIGHT, SHINE BRIGHT! SET ALL TO RIGHT.
I HAVE FAILED.
A POWER, FAR GREATER THAN MINE, NOW HOLDS THEM IN SWAY.
KARNILLA! WHY ART THOU HERE?
TO GIVE US AID, PRINCE LOKI.
THE REALM HATH NEED OF ALL WHO LIVE, IN THIS DEADLY TIME OF PERIL.
SPARE ME THY PLATI-TUDES, LADY.
THE WEAK SHALL FALL -- THE STRONG SURVIVE--
AND LOKI IS STRONG.
NAY! LOKI IS MAD! IF ALL OF ASGARD SHALL BE SCOURGED--
THEN LOKI TOO MUST FALL!

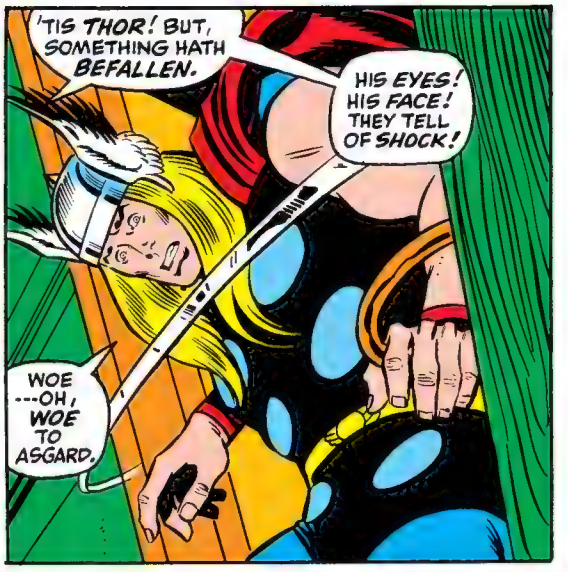
BEHOLD THE MYSTIC ODIN-SWORD! IT TELLS THAT DOOM IS NEAR.
DOES LOKI THINK THAT HE WILL LIVE -- WHEN THERE IS LIFE NO MORE?
SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH! I MUST HELP TO SAVE THE REALM.
FOR IT DOTH MEAN MY LIFE, AS WELL.
SPEAK NO MORE! IN MY COMPASSION, I WILL AID THEE.
BRING THE NORN QUEEN TO MY SIDE.
OUR POWERS BOTH MUST MERGE.
KARNILLA, THINK THY MYSTIC THOUGHTS! KARNILLA, BREATHE THY SPELLS.
OUR MAGIC JOINS! THY POWER GROWS! UNTIL, AT LAST---
--THE SPELL IS STRUCK! THE SPELL IS, BROKE!
FANDRAL! THOU, AND VOLSTAGG, AND THE GRIM HOGUN ARE TRULY THY-SELVES ONCE MORE.
BUT WHAT OF THOR-- AND REGAL ODIN? I BID THEE SPEAK, ASGARDIAN.
WE REMEMBER NAUGHT, ALAS.
THEN THE MYSTERY DOTH DEEPEN.
16


MAYHAP, IN THE WORLD BEYOND, DEATH HATH CLAIMED OUR LIEGE--AND HIS SON, THE THUNDER GOD.
AND YET, MY LADY--IF 'TWERE TRUE--THEY MUST NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.
NAY--OH, NAY! I'LL HEAR IT NOT--I'LL THINK IT NOT--BELIEVE IT NOT.
INFINITY SHALL PAY--AS NONE HAVE PAID BEFORE.
WE MUST LURE OUR FOE TO HALLOWED ASGARD.
THEN, WHEN THE ODIN-SWORD IS AT LAST UN-SHEATHED---
WHEN THE UNIVERSE IS ENDED--INFINITY SHALL SHARE OUR FATE!
YEA, WHEN GODS MUST DIE--WHO WOULD FAIN SURVIVE?
BEHOLD! A METEOR STREAKS THRU THE SKY.
IT DOTH COME THIS WAY.
TO HORSE! TO HORSE! WE MUST BE GONE!
BLUBBERING VOLSTAGG, STAND THY GROUND.
CANST THOU, WHO ART SLOWER THAN A TOAD--
OUT-RACE A BLAZING COMET?
BUT--WHAT IF IT BE--INFINITY?
THEN DRAW THY SWORD--AND GO YE FORTH--
AND STRIKE FOR HALLOWED ASGARD!
BUT HOLD! A MIRACLE HATH COME TO PASS!
THAT WHICH WE THOUGHT A METEOR--
IT IS--THE MIGHTY THOR!
STAND FAST! THE REALM HATH NEED OF THEE!

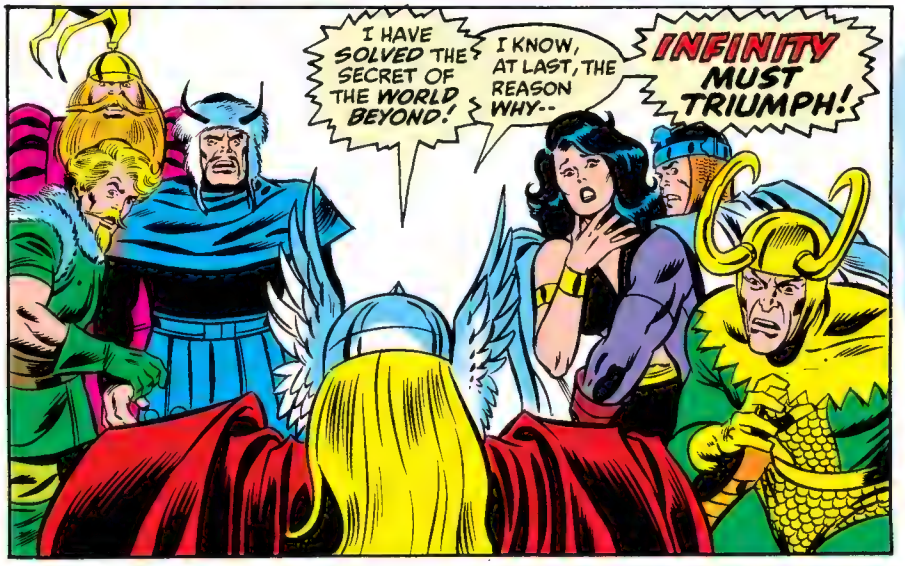
MY LORD! THY LADY'S HEART EMBRACES THEE.
NOT YET, BELOVED-- LEST THY BEAUTY MELT MY RAGE.
HOW NOW, MY PRINCE? WHAT SAYEST THOU OF ODIN?
INFINITY HAS STOLEN HIS WILL! HIS MIND IS CLOUDED O'ER.
BUT, HOW TO FIGHT INFINITY?
HE IS GHOST-- HE IS WRAITH-- AND MORE THAN WRAITH--
I HAVE SEEN HIM NOT! I KNOW HIM NOT.
BUT, TO FIND HIM IS TO FALL!
YET, EVERY RIDDLE HATH A KEY! AND SO I COME TO ASGARD.
'TWAS HERE IT ALL BEGAN! 'TIS HERE THE END SHALL COME!
'TIS HERE THE ANSWER MUST BE FOUND--
AND, BY THE GODS, 'TWILL BE!
NOW, STAND YE BACK--- AND GUARD YON DOOR--
THE GOD OF THUNDER DOTH COMMAND!
ALL WHO SEE INFINITY ARE HELPLESSLY ENTRANCED.
BUT, WHERE A GOD MAY FAIL--
--A MORTAL MAY SUCCEED!
IT'S WORTH TRYING! THE HUMAN DON BLAKE MAY BE BENEATH THE NOTICE OF INFINITY--
--UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!
18


THOR KNEW THIS CALLS FOR THE CLEAR, CALM, ANALYTICAL BRAIN OF A SURGEON!
AS DR. BLAKE, I DARE NOT FAIL!
QUICK! GIVE ME ALL THE FACTS!
TELL ME EVERY-THING YOU KNOW.
I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT, MORTAL.
I'LL SHOW THEE THE PAST-- THRU THE MAGIC OF THE ODIN-SCREEN---
TIME SEEMS TO STAND STILL, AS THE GRIM-FACED PHYSICIAN STUDIES THE AWESOME EVENTS THAT PASS BEFORE HIM---
WHAT IS THIS THAT I'M LOOKING AT?
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN LORDLY ODIN, DEEP WITHIN HIS ODIN-SLEEP, FELL VICTIM TO LOKI.
BUT NOT EVEN HELA COULD CONQUER HIM.
FOR HE ESCAPED THE DIMENSION OF DEATH.
MORE! MORE! IT'S IMPORTANT! I MUST SEE IT ALL.*
* WE'VE ALREADY SEEN IT, IN ISH #177! DOST THOU REMEMBER? -- STAN.
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE GREAT BOLTED DOOR---
WHAT? THOU HAST LEFT THE THUNDER GOD UNATTENDED-- WITHIN THE CHAMBER IMPERIAL?
WHO KNOWS WHAT TREASON HE AND THE VIZIER NOW DO PLAN?
THOU ART THE TRAITOR HE IS THOR!
I'LL WAIT NO LONGER!
THE CHAMBER MUST BE MINE!
I, TOO, AM PRINCE!
19


THE THUNDER GOD MUST DIE!
THEN, 'TIS LOKI WHO WILL LEAD THEE!
NEVER, PRINCE OF EVIL! NOT WHILST SIF DOTH LIVE!
BEHOLD! THE CHAMBER DOOR DRAWS OPEN---



WHAT DIDST THOU SEE WITHIN THE SCREEN?
WHAT HAST THOU LEARNED TO FILL THEE SO WITH FEAR?
MY LORD! NEVER HAST THY LADY SIF SEEN THEE TREMBLE SO.




NEXT: PREPARE THYSELF FOR... THE ANSWER AND... THE END

THOR
15¢
188
MAY
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
AT LAST!! THE MOST EAGERLY AWAITED ISSUE IN MAGAZINE HISTORY...
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE END OF INFINITY

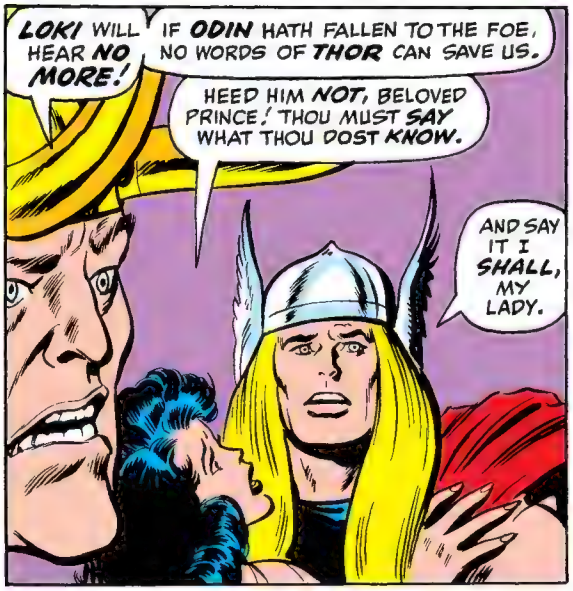
# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

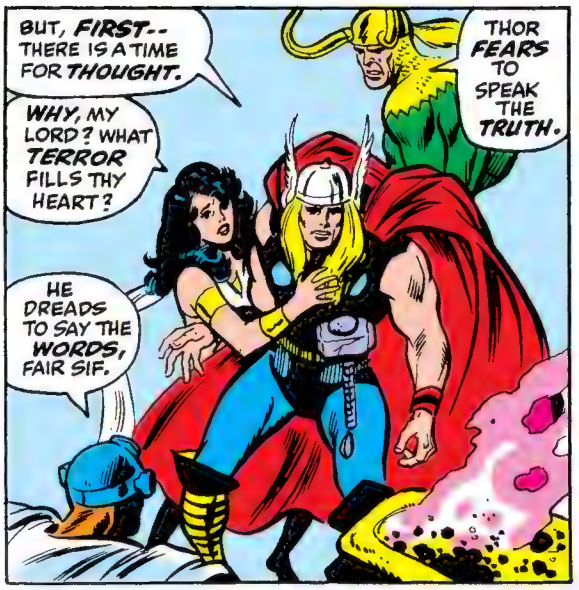
# THE END OF INFINITY!

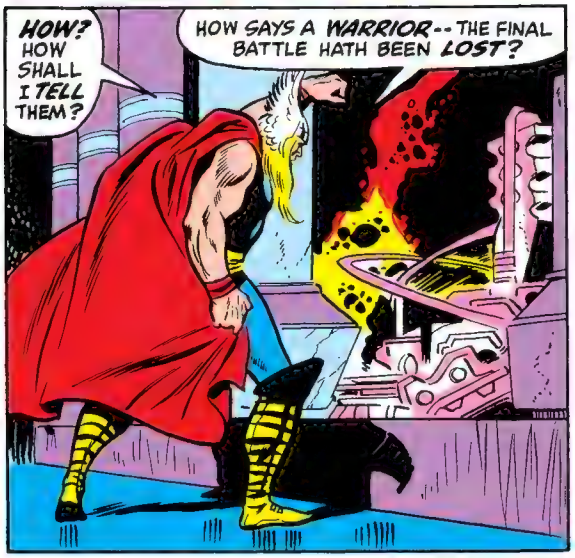
EVEN ALL-MIGHTY ODIN HAS FALLEN 'NEATH THE SPELL OF THE UNKNOWN INFINITY! AND NOW, AS THE ROYAL COURT OF ASGARD WATCHES ON THE GIANT COSMI-SCREEN, THE WORLD SEEMS TRULY--- DOOMED!
SEE? EVEN HIM WHO IS MY FATHER DOTH SERVE THE DREAD INFINITY!
THEY STRIKE THE PLANETS, ONE BY ONE--
AND NONE CAN STAND AGAINST THEM.
NOW THOR MUST TELL WHAT THOR HATH LEARNED..
THE SECRET OF INFINITY!

BY STAN LEE and JOHN BUSCEMA

INKING: JIM MOONEY | LETTERING: SAM ROSEN


LOKI WILL HEAR NO MORE!
IF ODIN HATH FALLEN TO THE FOE, NO WORDS OF THOR CAN SAVE US.
HEED HIM NOT, BELOVED PRINCE! THOU MUST SAY WHAT THOU DOST KNOW.
AND SAY IT I SHALL, MY LADY.


BUT, FIRST-- THERE IS A TIME FOR THOUGHT.
THOR FEARS TO SPEAK THE TRUTH.
WHY, MY LORD? WHAT TERROR FILLS THY HEART?
HE DREADS TO SAY THE WORDS, FAIR SIF.

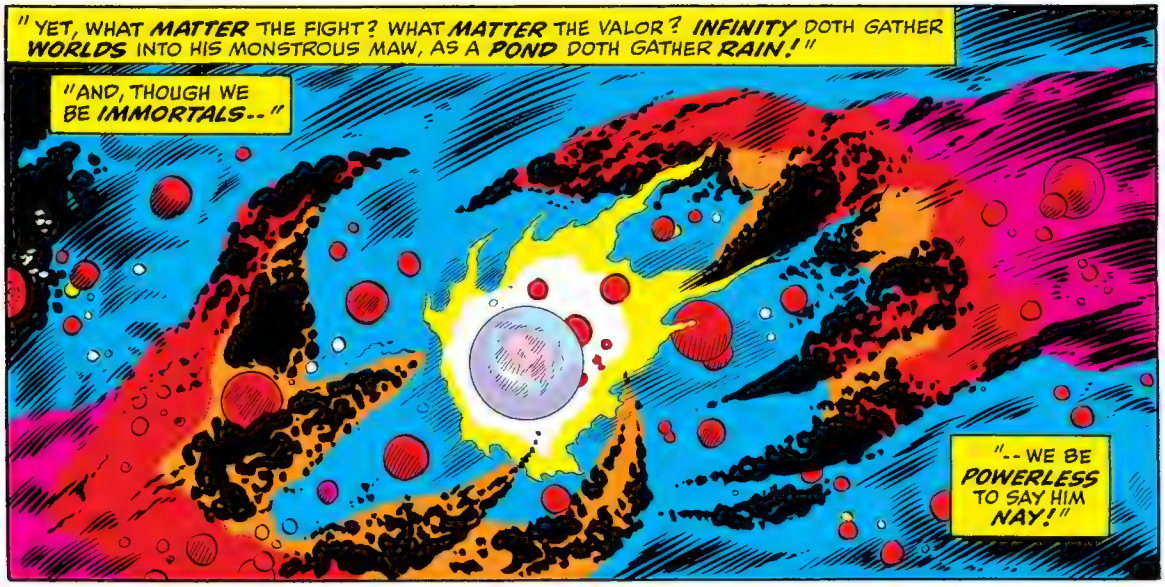

HOW? HOW SHALL I TELL THEM?
HOW SAYS A WARRIOR-- THE FINAL BATTLE HATH BEEN LOST?

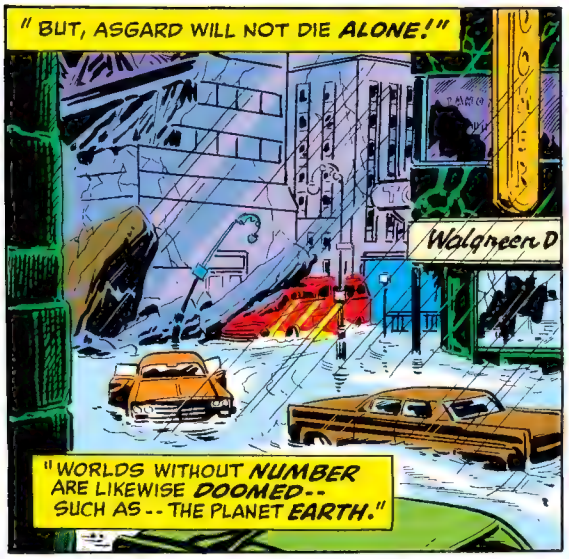
"EVEN NOW, BEFORE MINE EYES, THE SPECTRE OF DEATH ENGULFS THE REALM."

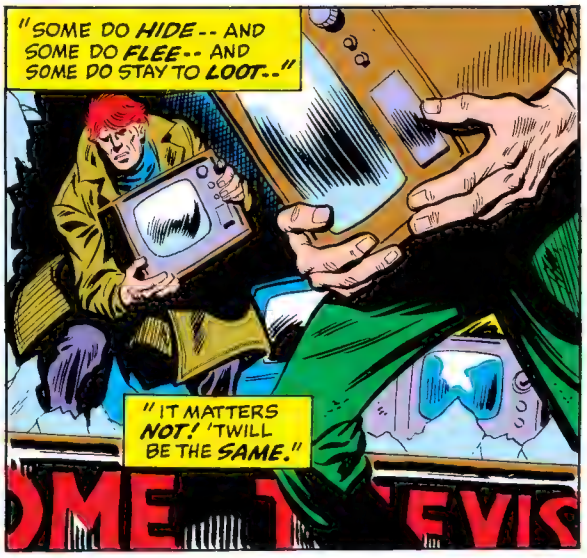
" FOR THE ODIN-SWORD SLIPS EVER FURTHER FROM ITS GREAT, ENCHANTED SCABBARD---"
"AND WHEN, AT LAST, IT COMES UNDONE --- THEN ALL WHO LIVE SHALL DIE!"

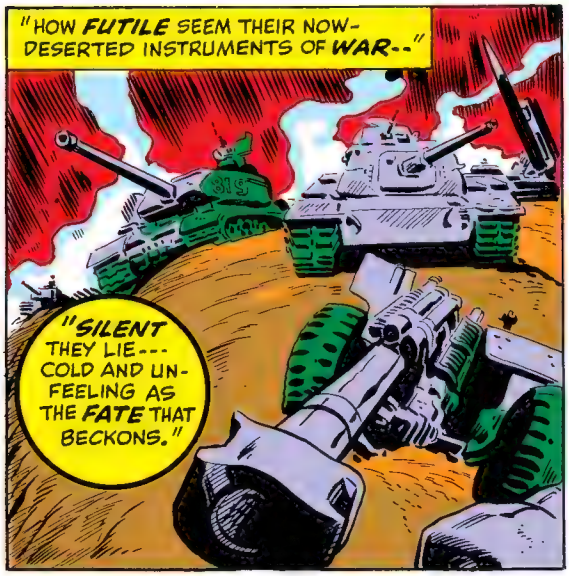
" EVEN NOW, BRAVE BALDER DOTH HIE HIM TO THE STREETS, FOR A GRIM YET GALLANT CAUSE--"
IF DIE WE MUST--
--THEN LET IT BE WITH VALOR!
2.

"WHILST MYSTIC KARNILLA, QUEEN OF THE NORNS, DOTH CONJURE HER SAVAGE SPELLS AGAINST THE FATE THAT THREATENS LIFE ITSELF--"
O, HOSTS OF DARKNESS, HEAR MY CALL---
--THY QUEEN COMMANDS THEE, ONE AND ALL.
THOUGH WE BIDE BEYOND THE PALL--
IF WE FAIL, WE TOO MUST FALL!
"--BUT SHE DOTH CONJURE THEM IN VAIN."
"AND, LOKI--EVER-HEINOUS LOKI---CAN FIND NO PLACE OF SAFETY, NO MATTER HOW FAR HE FLEES --NO MATTER HOW DEEP HE DOTH DIG."
I CARE NOT WHAT FATE BEFALLS THE REST--
LOKI MUST NOT PERISH.
LOKI MUST SURVIVE!
"EVEN AS I MUSE, THE HOSTS OF HORROR NOW INVADE THE GOLDEN REALM--"
"GIANTS, TROLLS, AND DEMONS ALL --BY FEAR AND FURY GOADED."
"BUT THERE BE SOME WHO STRIVE TO STEM THE DEADLY TIDE--"
FOR ASGAAARD!
FOR ODIN!
"--NO MATTER HOW HOPELESS THE CAUSE MAY SEEM.--"
"--BECAUSE THEY BE--ASGARDIANS!"
FORSOOTH, BASE CHURLS!
3


"YET, WHAT MATTER THE FIGHT? WHAT MATTER THE VALOR? INFINITY DOTH GATHER WORLDS INTO HIS MONSTROUS MAW, AS A POND DOTH GATHER RAIN!"
"AND, THOUGH WE BE IMMORTALS--"
"--WE BE POWERLESS TO SAY HIM NAY!"


"BUT, ASGARD WILL NOT DIE ALONE!"
Walgreen D
"WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER ARE LIKEWISE DOOMED-- SUCH AS--THE PLANET EARTH."


"SOME DO HIDE-- AND SOME DO FLEE-- AND SOME DO STAY TO LOOT--"
"IT MATTERS NOT! 'TWILL BE THE SAME."


"HOW FUTILE SEEM THEIR NOW-DESERTED INSTRUMENTS OF WAR--"
"SILENT THEY LIE--- COLD AND UN-FEELING AS THE FATE THAT BECKONS."

"AND SO SOME WAIT-- AND SO SOME PRAY-- AS INFINITY DRAWS NEARER---"
REPENT YE SINNERS
YE SHALL BE SAVED

"AND, WHEREVER MAN DOTH TREAD, REASON YIELDS TO PANIC."
"UNTIL, AT LENGTH, ALL STAND AND WAIT -- ALL EYES ARE SKYWARD TURNED! THEY WAIT -- ALTHOUGH THEY KNOW NOT WHY! THEY WATCH --- THEY KNOW NOT WHAT."
MY PRINCE! I BEG THY PARDON, BUT THOU MUST NEEDS END THY REVERIE.
WE STILL AWAIT THY PROMISED TALE -- THE SECRET OF INFINITY.
AY, FAIR SIF! 'TIS FITTING THAT THE TRUTH BE KNOWN.
I PRITHEE, LISTEN WELL.
RETURN WITH ME -- IN MEMORY -- TO A STRANGELY FATEFUL DAY ---
"'TWAS 'PON TIME, NOT LONG AGO, WHEN ALL-FATHER ODIN SLEPT HIS ROYAL SLEEP, IN THE DREAD DIMENSION OF DEATH --"*
*AS PUNGENTLY PORTRAYED IN THOR #177. -- STAN.
"WITHIN HIS GLEAMING CAPSULE, HE DREAMED HIS REGAL DREAMS -- AS ALL THE WHILE A SILENT SHAPE DREW NEARER --- "
5.

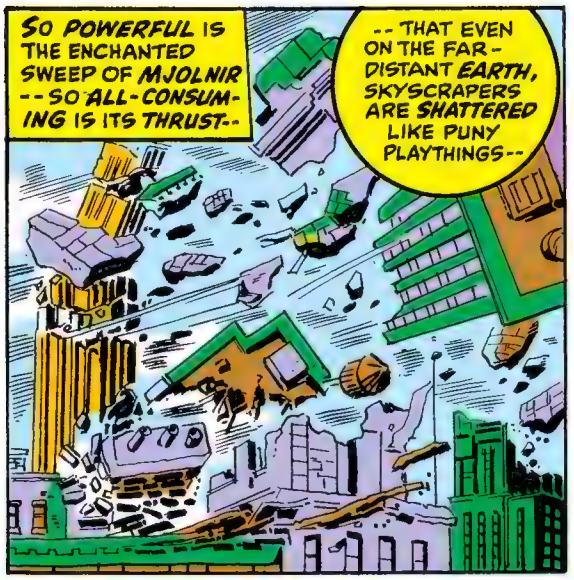
"--THE SHAPE OF HELA-- SHE WHO IS GODDESS OF DEATH ITSELF."
WHILE ODIN, PROTECTOR OF LIFE, DOTH SLEEP-- I CAN WIN FINAL VICTORY -- IN THE CAUSE OF DEATH.
FATE HATH PROVIDED THE MEANS! HELA MUST NOT FALTER.
BUT SOFT! AN ASGARDIAN APPROACHES.
'TIS BALDER, WHO ENTERS THE DIMENSION OF DEATH IN SEARCH OF HIS SLUMBERING LIEGE.
BUT HELA WILL NOT BE THWARTED.
THUS, BALDER MUST BE SACRIFICED---
MY LIMBS GROW FRAIL-- AND WEAK--
MY FLESH NOW WITHERS AS IF WITH AGE---
--AND LIFE DOTH LEAVE MY BODY.
"THEN, EVEN AS BRAVE BALDER HELPLESSLY SUCCUMBED TO HELA'S FATAL SPELL---"
ALL MEN POSSESS BOTH BODY-- AND SOUL-- AND SO IT IS WITH ODIN.
--BUT THY BODY NOW MUST DIE!
THY SOUL I MAY NOT TAMPER WITH--
6

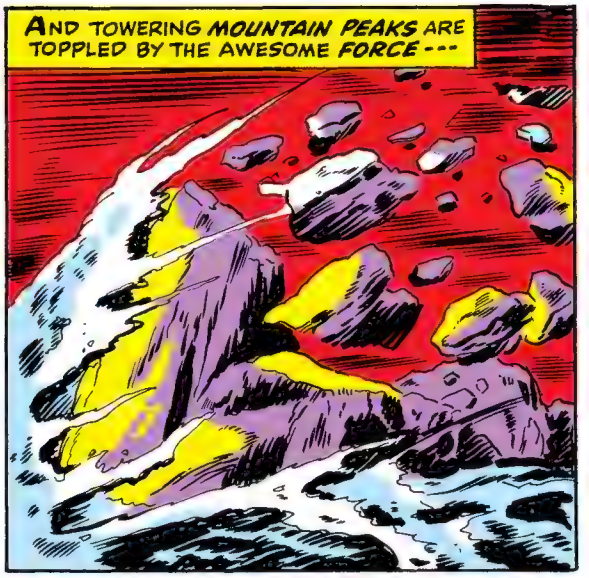
"BUT ODIN, BEING MORE THAN MAN, WITHSTOOD THE OVERTURES OF DEATH! AND YET, SO GREAT IS HELA'S POWER, THAT SHE COULD NOT FAIL COMPLETELY!"
HE DOTH NOT DIE! BUT HOLD! WHAT NOW--?
A PORTION OF HIS SELF IS FELLED.
IT COMES TO SERVE THE GODDESS HELA.
AND-- IT SHALL SERVE ME WELL.
THOU SHALT BE CALLED--- INFINITY.
AND THY POWER SHALL RIVAL ODIN'S OWN.
FOR, IN TRUTH, THOU ART HIS OTHER SELF.
NOW LET BALDER FREE HIS LORD--
THE GAME HATH STARTED --AND NONE CAN LEAVE THE FIELD.
NOW GET THEE GONE, INFINITY.
THE AGE-OLD BATTLE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH WILL SOON BE O'ER!
AND HELA SHALL RULE, AT LAST.
7.

I LEAVE THEE NOW, INFINITY.
THOU ART THE POWER -- AND I THE WILL.
FROM NOTHING-NESS THE WORLD WAS BORN---
TO NOTHINGNESS IT SHALL RETURN.
"AND SO THE CARNAGE DIDST BEGIN! AND SO THE END DRAWS NEAR!"
"HELA DOES WHAT HELA MUST -- WHILST WE, LIKE PAWNS, ARE FELLED AND CAST ASIDE."
8.

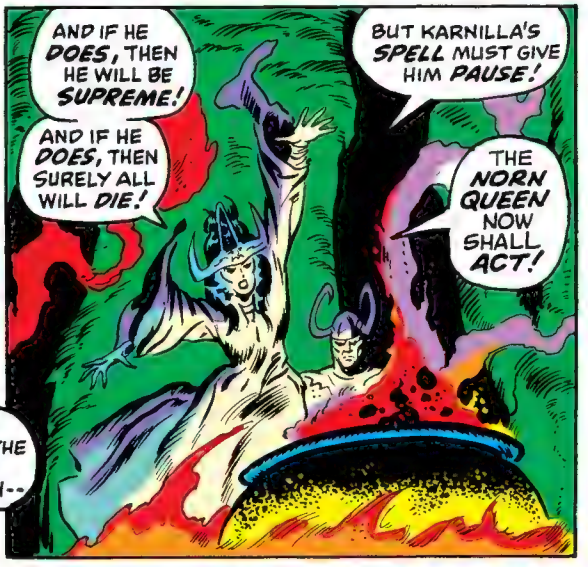
NOW THOU HAST LEARNED THE SECRET OF INFINITY.
HOW CAN ODIN TRIUMPH--- WHEN HE DOTH FIGHT HIMSELF?
THEN, SAY YOU, PRINCE, THE CAUSE IS LOST?
LONG HAVE I KNOWN THEE, THUNDER GOD---
--AND NEVER HAST THOU FALTERED.
WHO SPEAKS OF CAUSES THAT BE LOST?
WHO THINKS THAT THOR WOULD FALTER?
A MAN MAY FIGHT, THOUGH HOPE BE DIM---
A GOD WILL FIGHT-- WHEN HOPE BE GONE!
THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL IS LIFE.
WE SHALL NOT LOSE IT LIGHTLY!
SOMEWHERE --OUT THERE-- THE FOE IS DEATH--
AND WE SHALL FIND-- AND FELL HER.
NOW STAND YE BACK! AVERT YOUR EYES.
'TIS TIME FOR THOR TO ACT---
9.

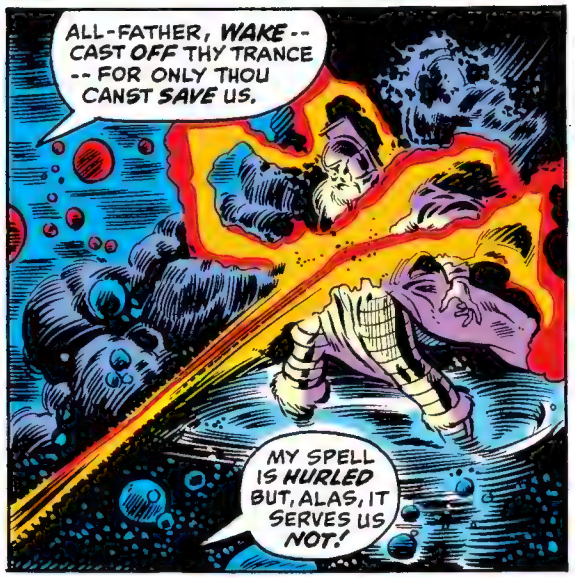
LET THERE BE WIND! LET THERE BE STORM!
LET THERE BE GALE UNENDING!
TO CLEAR AWAY THE MISTS OF NIGHT--
-- THAT WE MAY SEE WHAT MUST BE SEEN--
-- THAT WE MAY KNOW HOW ODIN FARES!
SO BLOW YE WIND-- AND POUND YE STORM--
LET NOTHING SERVE TO STOP THEE.
CLEAR THE FOE FROM ASGARD'S GATES--
-- MIGHTY MJOLNIR DOTH COMMAND THEE.
NOW STANDS REVEALED THE KING OF ALL--
AND BEHIND -- HIS OTHER SELF!
INFINITY DOTH SEEK TO MERGE -- TO TAKE POSSESSION OF OUR LIEGE--
BUT HE MUST NOT--- LEST ALL BE LOST!

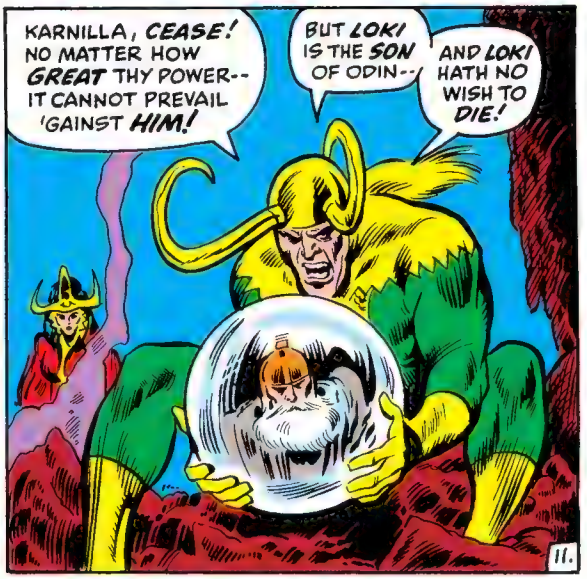

SO POWERFUL IS THE ENCHANTED SWEEP OF MJOLNIR --SO ALL-CONSUMING IS ITS THRUST--
--THAT EVEN ON THE FAR-DISTANT EARTH, SKYSCRAPERS ARE SHATTERED LIKE PUNY PLAYTHINGS--


AND TOWERING MOUNTAIN PEAKS ARE TOPPLED BY THE AWESOME FORCE---

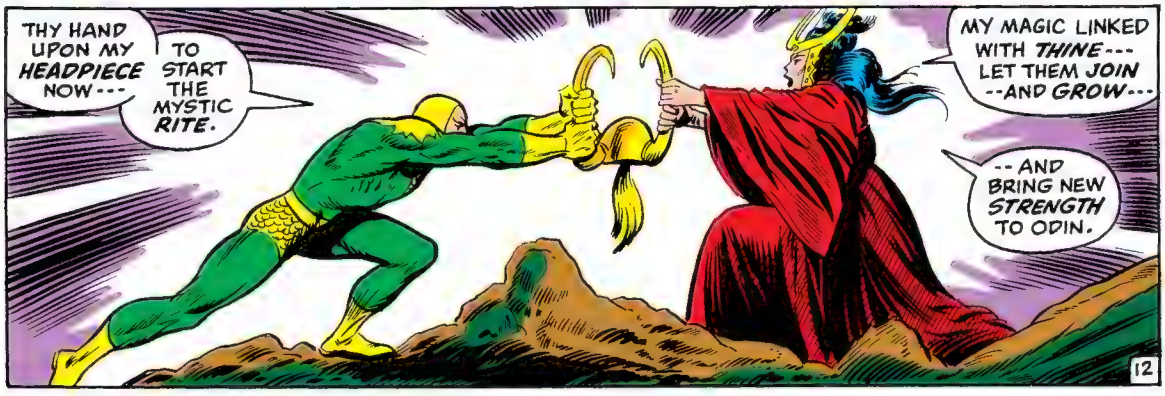
WHILE, BACK IN HALLOWED ASGARD---
WITH EACH PASSING HEARTBEAT, ODIN DOTH GROW WEAKER--
AND INFINITY BIDS FAIR TO TAKE CONTROL.
HE SEEKS TO CLAIM THE BODY OF LORD ODIN--


AND IF HE DOES, THEN HE WILL BE SUPREME!
AND IF HE DOES, THEN SURELY ALL WILL DIE!
BUT KARNILLA'S SPELL MUST GIVE HIM PAUSE!
THE NORN QUEEN NOW SHALL ACT!

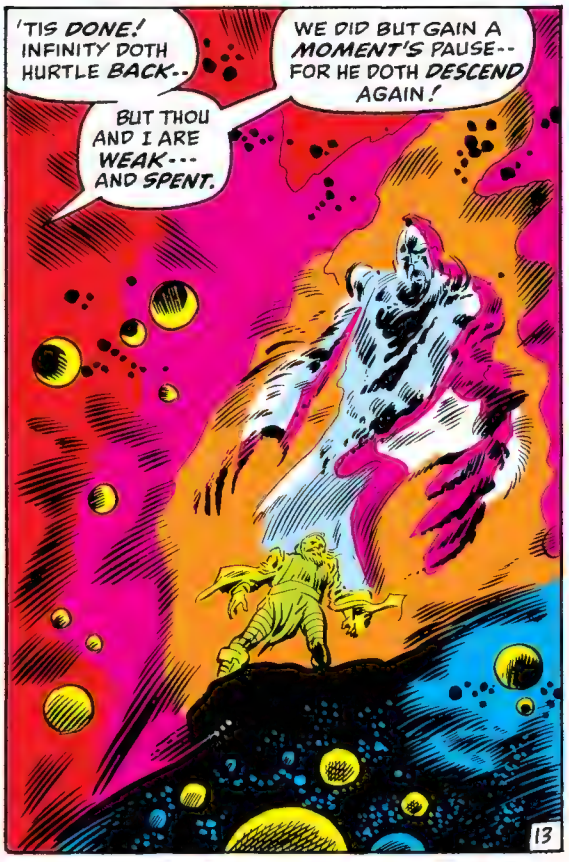

ALL-FATHER, WAKE-- CAST OFF THY TRANCE -- FOR ONLY THOU CANST SAVE US.
MY SPELL IS HURLED BUT, ALAS, IT SERVES US NOT!

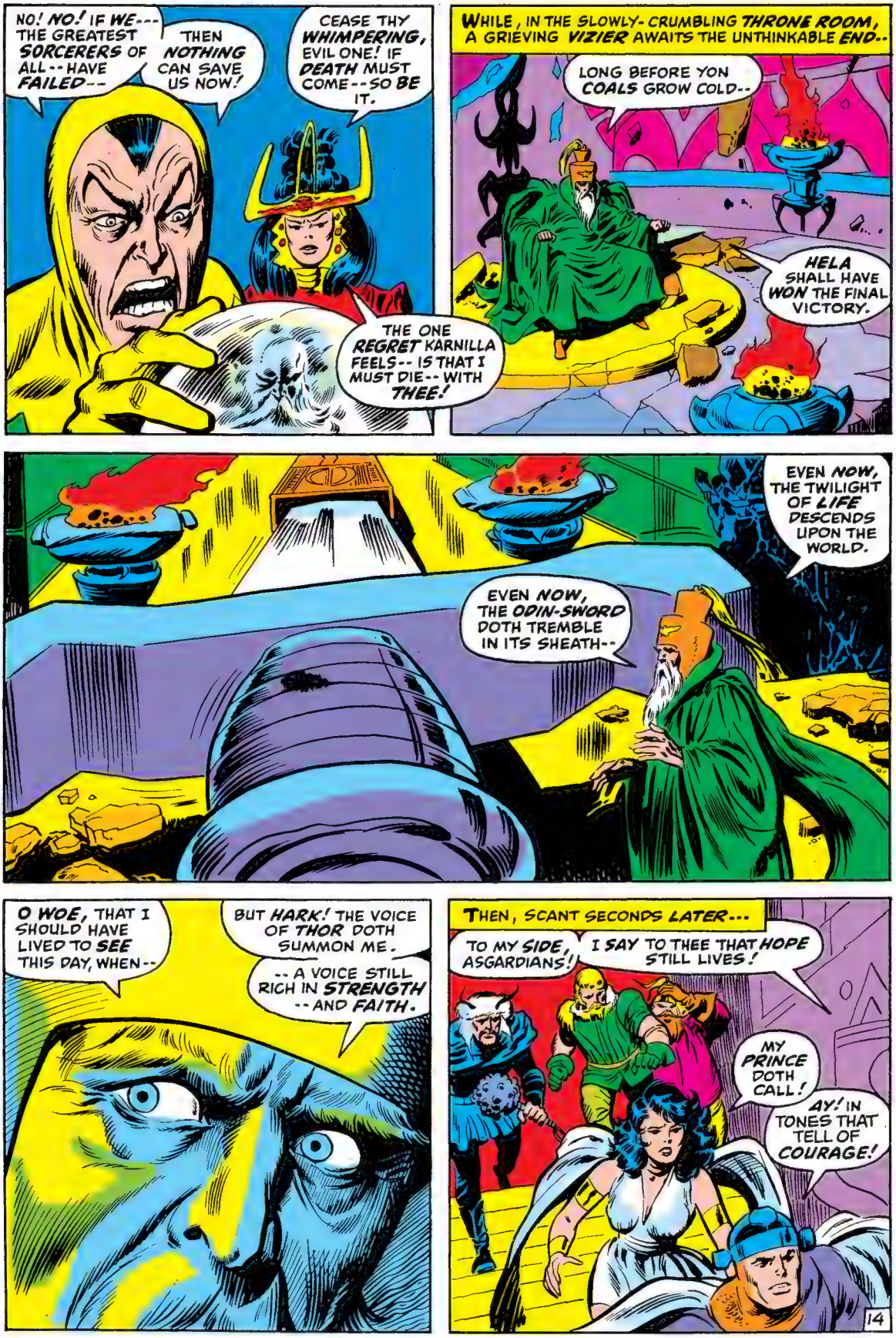

KARNILLA, CEASE! NO MATTER HOW GREAT THY POWER-- IT CANNOT PREVAIL 'GAINST HIM!
BUT LOKI IS THE SON OF ODIN--
AND LOKI HATH NO WISH TO DIE!

SO, LET MY ENCHANTMENT BLEND WITH THINE--
AND THOU SHALT SEE POWER AS NE'ER BEFORE!
SINCE LIFE ITSELF IN THE BALANCE HANGS--
KARNILLA SHALL OBEY.

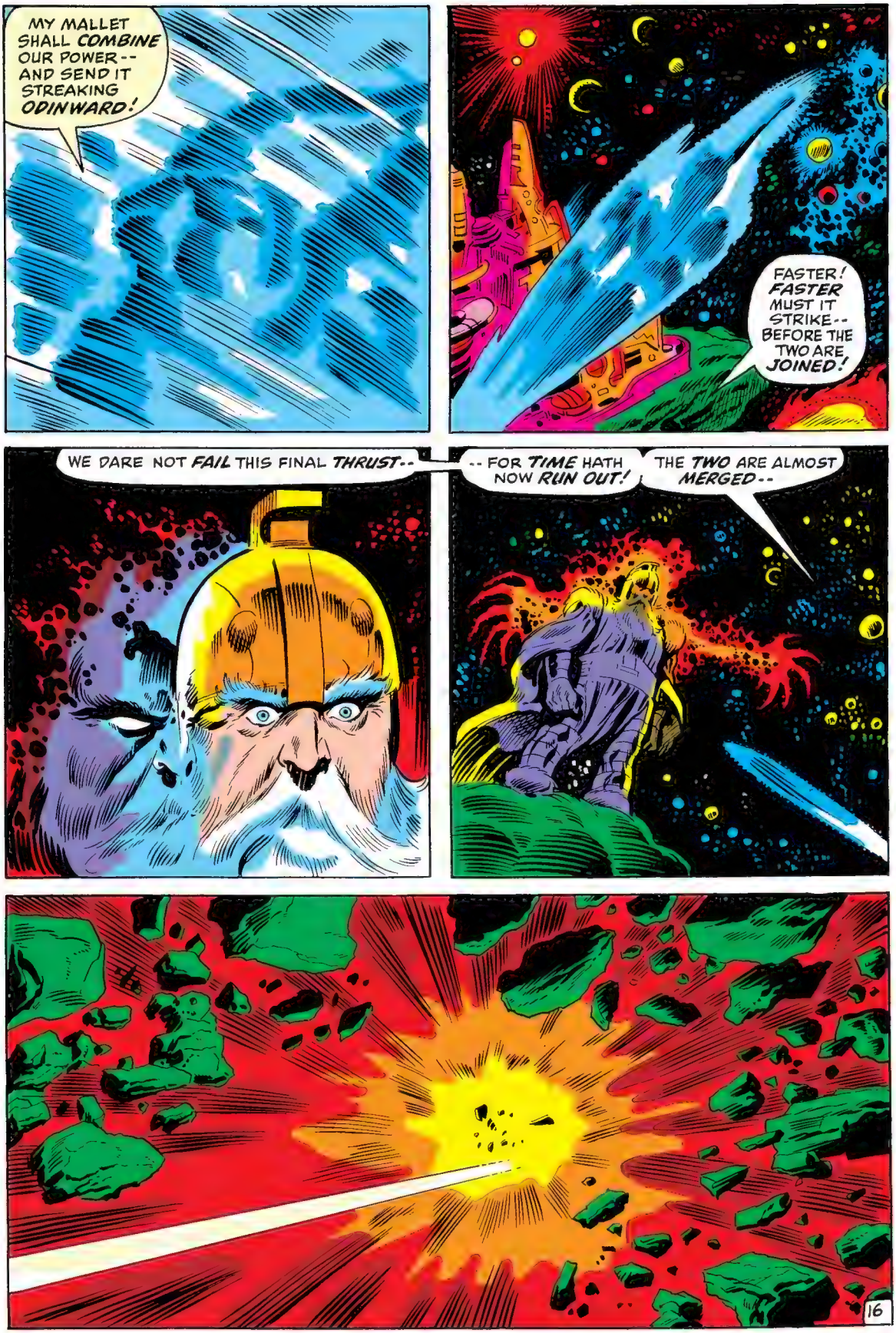

THY HAND UPON MY HEADPIECE NOW---
TO START THE MYSTIC RITE.
MY MAGIC LINKED WITH THINE--- LET THEM JOIN --AND GROW---
--AND BRING NEW STRENGTH TO ODIN.
12

INFINITY COMES CLOSER STILL--AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT--
TIGHTER, TIGHTER GRASP THE HORNS-- AND LET OUR SPELL BE LAUNCHED!


'TIS DONE! INFINITY DOTH HURTLE BACK--
WE DID BUT GAIN A MOMENT'S PAUSE-- FOR HE DOTH DESCEND AGAIN!
BUT THOU AND I ARE WEAK--- AND SPENT.
13


NO! NO! IF WE--- THE GREATEST SORCERERS OF ALL -- HAVE FAILED--
THEN NOTHING CAN SAVE US NOW!
CEASE THY WHIMPERING, EVIL ONE! IF DEATH MUST COME--SO BE IT.
THE ONE REGRET KARNILLA FEELS-- IS THAT I MUST DIE-- WITH THEE!
WHILE, IN THE SLOWLY-CRUMBLING THRONE ROOM, A GRIEVING VIZIER AWAITS THE UNTHINKABLE END..
LONG BEFORE YON COALS GROW COLD--
HELA SHALL HAVE WON THE FINAL VICTORY.
EVEN NOW, THE TWILIGHT OF LIFE DESCENDS UPON THE WORLD.
EVEN NOW, THE ODIN-SWORD DOTH TREMBLE IN ITS SHEATH--
O WOE, THAT I SHOULD HAVE LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY, WHEN--
BUT HARK! THE VOICE OF THOR DOTH SUMMON ME.
--A VOICE STILL RICH IN STRENGTH --AND FAITH.
THEN, SCANT SECONDS LATER...
TO MY SIDE, ASGARDIANS!
I SAY TO THEE THAT HOPE STILL LIVES!
MY PRINCE DOTH CALL!
AY! IN TONES THAT TELL OF COURAGE!
14

VIZIER, SPEAK--- FOR HERE WE STAND ASSEMBLED.
THOR HATH CALLED THE STRONGEST, THE MOST LOYAL IN THE REALM.
THOUGH THE RAINBOW BRIDGE HATH BEEN DESTROYED--
STILL WILL I SERVE MY PRINCE.
SO SAY WE ALL, BRAVE HEIMDALL.
IF THOR HATH CALLED--- THEN HOPE STILL LIVES.
BE SILENT, ALL-- AND HEED THE WORDS HE SPEAKS.
STAND YE NOW WITHIN MY SHADOW--
FAIR KARNILLA --WEAVE THY SPELL.
NORN QUEEN, IGNITE THY MYSTIC FIRE.
THE THUNDER GOD HATH SPOKEN.
NOW-- BY THE FLAME THAT BORDERS US--
THE TIME HATH COME TO STRIKE!
ONCE MORE SHALL MJOLNIR SERVE US WELL-- IN THIS, THE FINAL HOUR.
MY LORD! WHY DOST THOU SWING THINE ENCHANTED HAMMER SO?
JOIN HANDS, FAIR SIF-- AND CLOSE THINE EYES.
I SEE AT LAST WHAT THOR DOTH PLAN.
15


MY MALLET SHALL COMBINE OUR POWER-- AND SEND IT STREAKING ODINWARD!
FASTER! FASTER MUST IT STRIKE-- BEFORE THE TWO ARE JOINED!
WE DARE NOT FAIL THIS FINAL THRUST--
-- FOR TIME HATH NOW RUN OUT!
THE TWO ARE ALMOST MERGED--

ODIN HATH AWOKE-- AS FROM A HAUNTED DREAM.
BUT WHAT IS THAT MINE EYES BEHOLD?
THE BLOW IS STRUCK!
NOW NAUGHT BUT THE WAITING REMAINS! ARE WE SAVED--OR NO?
THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL IS MINE AGAIN!
'TIS KNOWLEDGE! KNOWLEDGE! AT LAST I KNOW WHOM I BEHOLD!
-- WHOM I'LL BEHOLD NO MORE!
ONE ODIN THERE WAS! ONE ODIN THERE IS!
-- AND SHALL BE-- FOREVER-MORE!
17

THERE! IN THE SKY! HURTLING FROM THE WORLD BEYOND.
ODIN? OR-- INFINITY?
NOW WE SHALL HAVE --- THE ANSWER.
AN AURA OF WISDOM-- OF JUSTICE-- DOTH ENGULF US ALL.
THE DAY IS WON! OUR LIEGE IS RETURNED!
ODIN--HAIL!
RISE, ASGARDIANS
STAND YE TALL! STAND YE PROUD! AND SHARE WITH ME THIS MOMENT---
--AS I GRASP, ONCE MORE, YON REGAL POWER SCEPTER.
NOW SHALL I UNDO THAT WHICH HATH BEEN DONE!

"IN EVERY LAND -- ON EVERY WORLD -- WHERE CARNAGE HATH OCCURRED -- "
"I WAVE MY POWER SCEPTER THRICE -- "
"AND ALL SHALL BE RESTORED!"
" LET FLOOD SUBSIDE -- LET CALM PREVAIL -- "
"LET ALL BE AS IT WAS."
"AND, AS MEN PROBE THE ENDLESS SKIES, LET NO MEMORY REMAIN OF WHAT HATH JUST BEFALLEN."
HOW FARES THE MYSTIC ODIN-SWORD?
'TIS VIRTUALLY UNSHEATHED."
BUT, WITH A TOUCH, I PROD IT BACK.
RAGNAROK SHALL NOT FALL THIS DAY!
19

THY REALM STILL STANDS! THY CROWN-- SECURE.
YET, THOU HAST A TROUBLED MIEN, MY LORD.
AY, FLESH OF MY FLESH! THY FATHER'S HEART IS HEAVY.
FOR THE DANGER IS NOT PAST.
THE GODDESS OF DEATH HATH LOST HER PREY---
AND HER WRATH IS ALL-CONSUMING.
SINCE ODIN IS DENIED HER, SHE WILL SEEK ONE IN MY PLACE---
SHE WILL CLAIM-- THE MIGHTY THOR!
THOU SHALT NOT MISS NEXT ISSUE!

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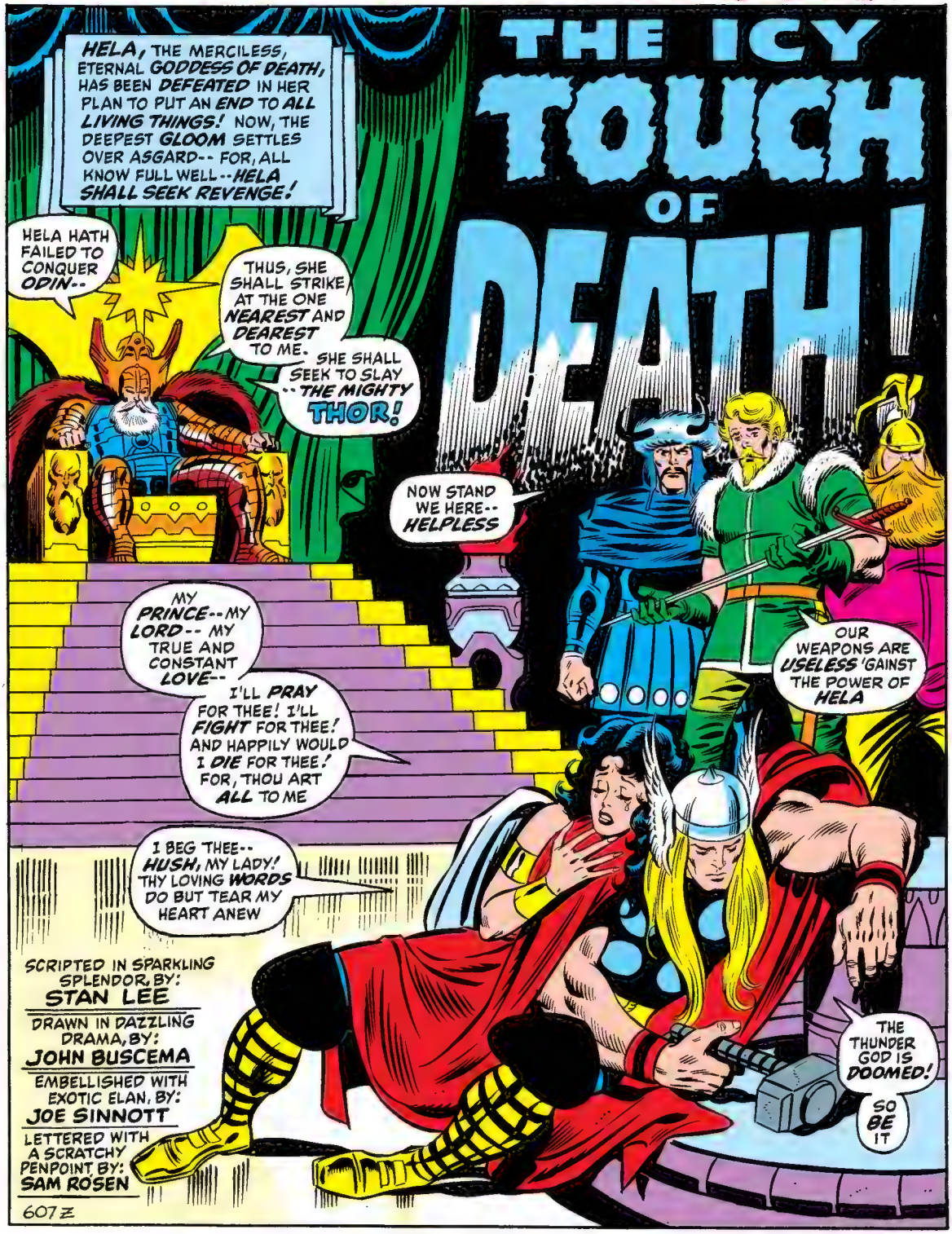
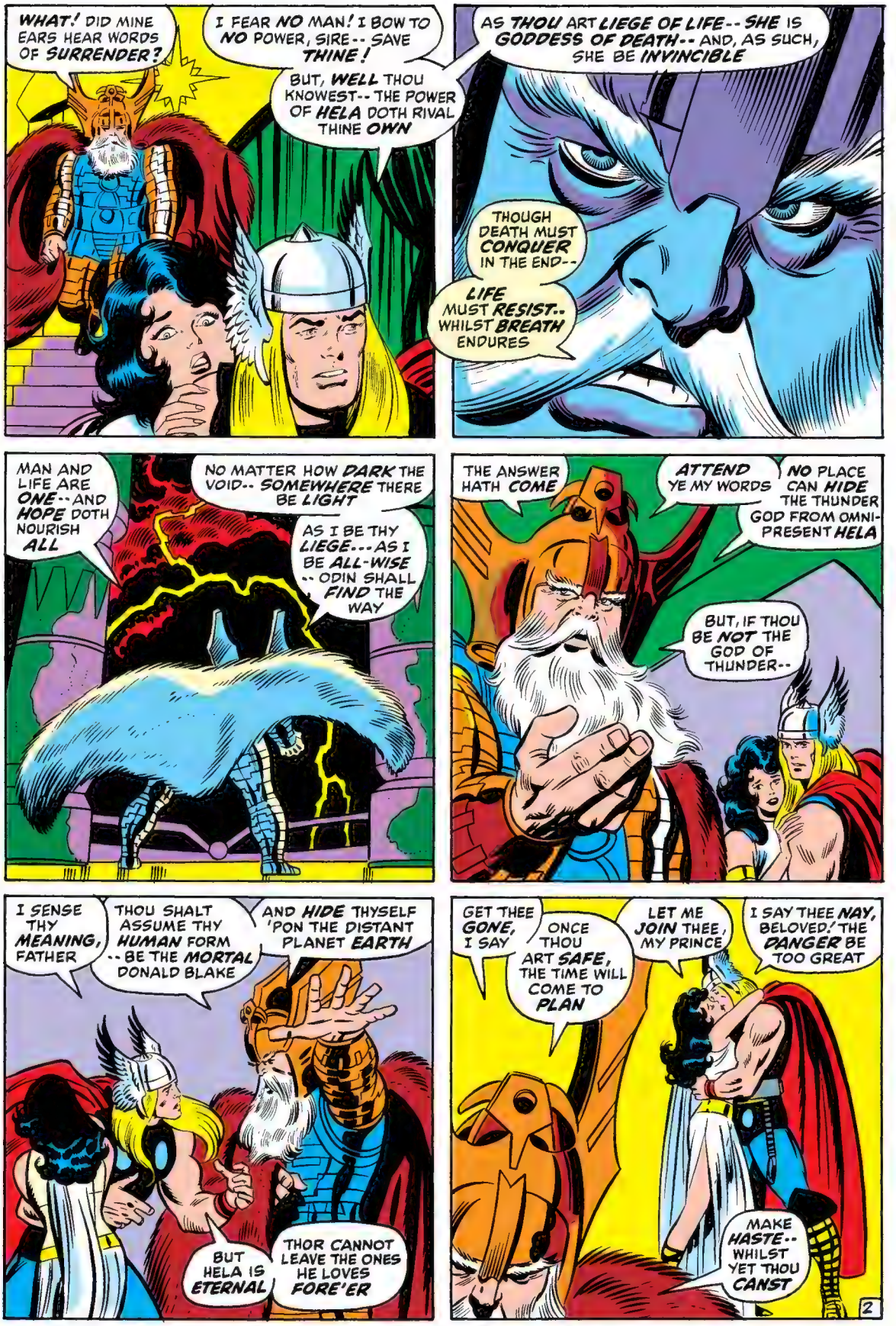
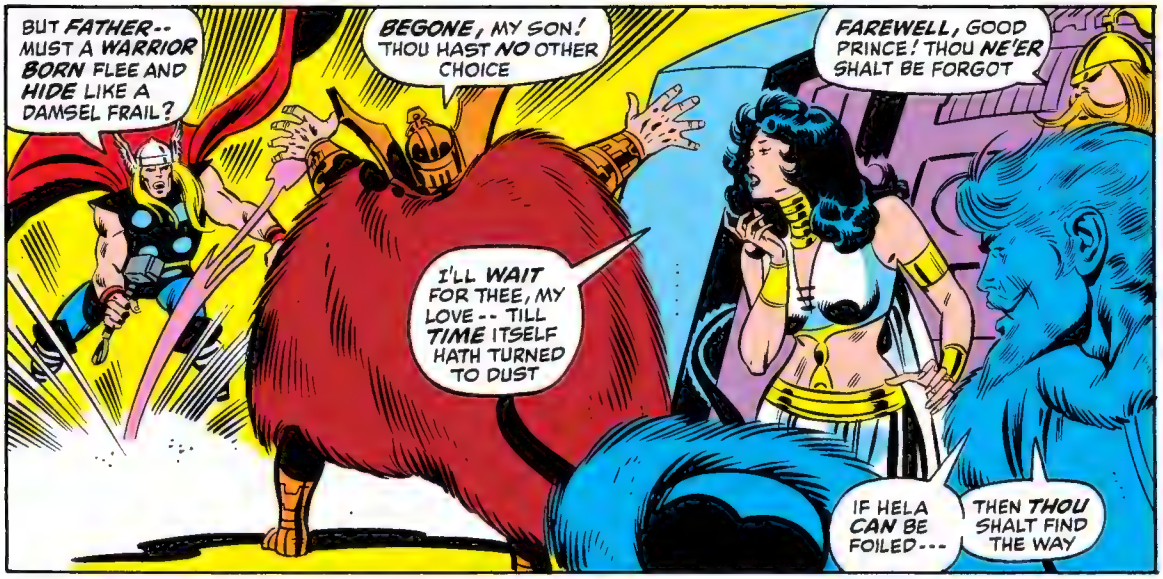
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
'TIS HELA! SHE HATH FOUND ME--AT LAST!
THUNDER GOD-- YOUR TIME HAS COME!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE ICY TOUCH OF DEATH!

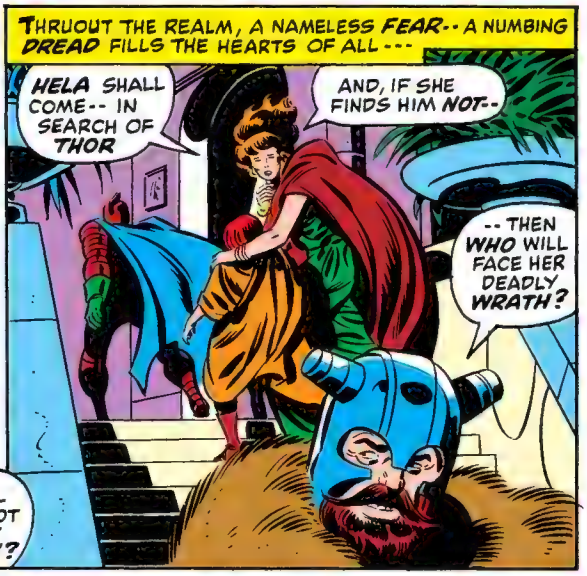
# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

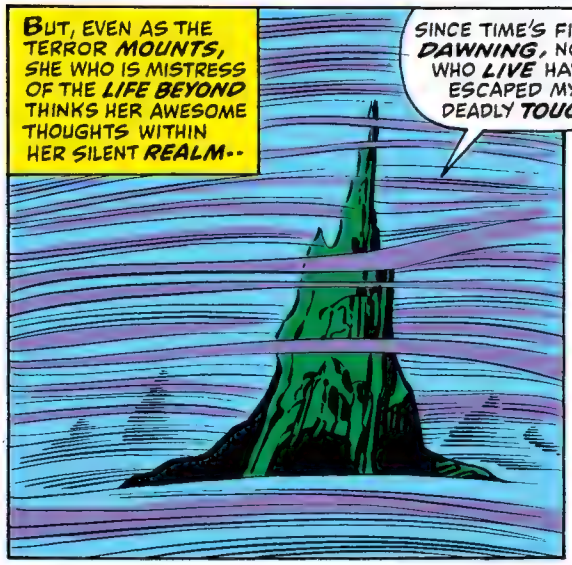

THE ICY TOUCH OF DEATH!
HELA, THE MERCILESS, ETERNAL GODDESS OF DEATH, HAS BEEN DEFEATED IN HER PLAN TO PUT AN END TO ALL LIVING THINGS! NOW, THE DEEPEST GLOOM SETTLES OVER ASGARD-- FOR, ALL KNOW FULL WELL--HELA SHALL SEEK REVENGE!
HELA HATH FAILED TO CONQUER ODIN--
THUS, SHE SHALL STRIKE AT THE ONE NEAREST AND DEAREST TO ME.
SHE SHALL SEEK TO SLAY --THE MIGHTY THOR!
NOW STAND WE HERE-- HELPLESS
OUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS 'GAINST THE POWER OF HELA
MY PRINCE--MY LORD-- MY TRUE AND CONSTANT LOVE--
I'LL PRAY FOR THEE! I'LL FIGHT FOR THEE! AND HAPPILY WOULD I DIE FOR THEE! FOR, THOU ART ALL TO ME
I BEG THEE-- HUSH, MY LADY! THY LOVING WORDS DO BUT TEAR MY HEART ANEW
THE THUNDER GOD IS DOOMED!
SO BE IT
SCRIPTED IN SPARKLING SPLENDOR, BY: STAN LEE
DRAWN IN DAZZLING DRAMA, BY: JOHN BUSCEMA
EMBELLISHED WITH EXOTIC ELAN, BY: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERED WITH A SCRATCHY PENPOINT BY: SAM ROSEN
607 Z

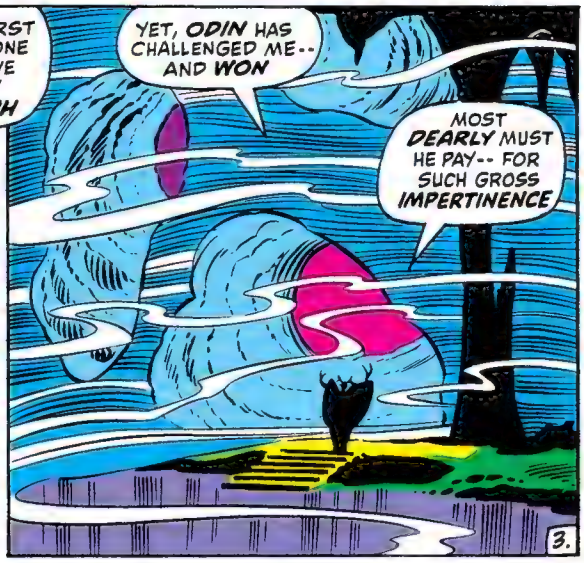

WHAT! DID MINE EARS HEAR WORDS OF SURRENDER?
I FEAR NO MAN! I BOW TO NO POWER, SIRE-- SAVE THINE!
BUT, WELL THOU KNOWEST-- THE POWER OF HELA DOTH RIVAL THINE OWN
AS THOU ART LIEGE OF LIFE-- SHE IS GODDESS OF DEATH-- AND, AS SUCH, SHE BE INVINCIBLE
THOUGH DEATH MUST CONQUER IN THE END--
LIFE MUST RESIST.. WHILST BREATH ENDURES
MAN AND LIFE ARE ONE-- AND HOPE DOTH NOURISH ALL
NO MATTER HOW DARK THE VOID-- SOMEWHERE THERE BE LIGHT
AS I BE THY LIEGE--- AS I BE ALL-WISE -- ODIN SHALL FIND THE WAY
THE ANSWER HATH COME
ATTEND YE MY WORDS
NO PLACE CAN HIDE THE THUNDER GOD FROM OMNI-PRESENT HELA
BUT, IF THOU BE NOT THE GOD OF THUNDER--
I SENSE THY MEANING, FATHER
THOU SHALT ASSUME THY HUMAN FORM -- BE THE MORTAL DONALD BLAKE
AND HIDE THYSELF 'PON THE DISTANT PLANET EARTH
BUT HELA IS ETERNAL
THOR CANNOT LEAVE THE ONES HE LOVES FORE'ER
GET THEE GONE, I SAY
ONCE THOU ART SAFE, THE TIME WILL COME TO PLAN
LET ME JOIN THEE, MY PRINCE
I SAY THEE NAY, BELOVED! THE DANGER BE TOO GREAT
MAKE HASTE-- WHILST YET THOU CANST
2


BUT FATHER-- MUST A WARRIOR BORN FLEE AND HIDE LIKE A DAMSEL FRAIL?
BEGONE, MY SON! THOU HAST NO OTHER CHOICE
I'LL WAIT FOR THEE, MY LOVE -- TILL TIME ITSELF HATH TURNED TO DUST
FAREWELL, GOOD PRINCE! THOU NE'ER SHALT BE FORGOT
IF HELA CAN BE FOILED---
THEN THOU SHALT FIND THE WAY

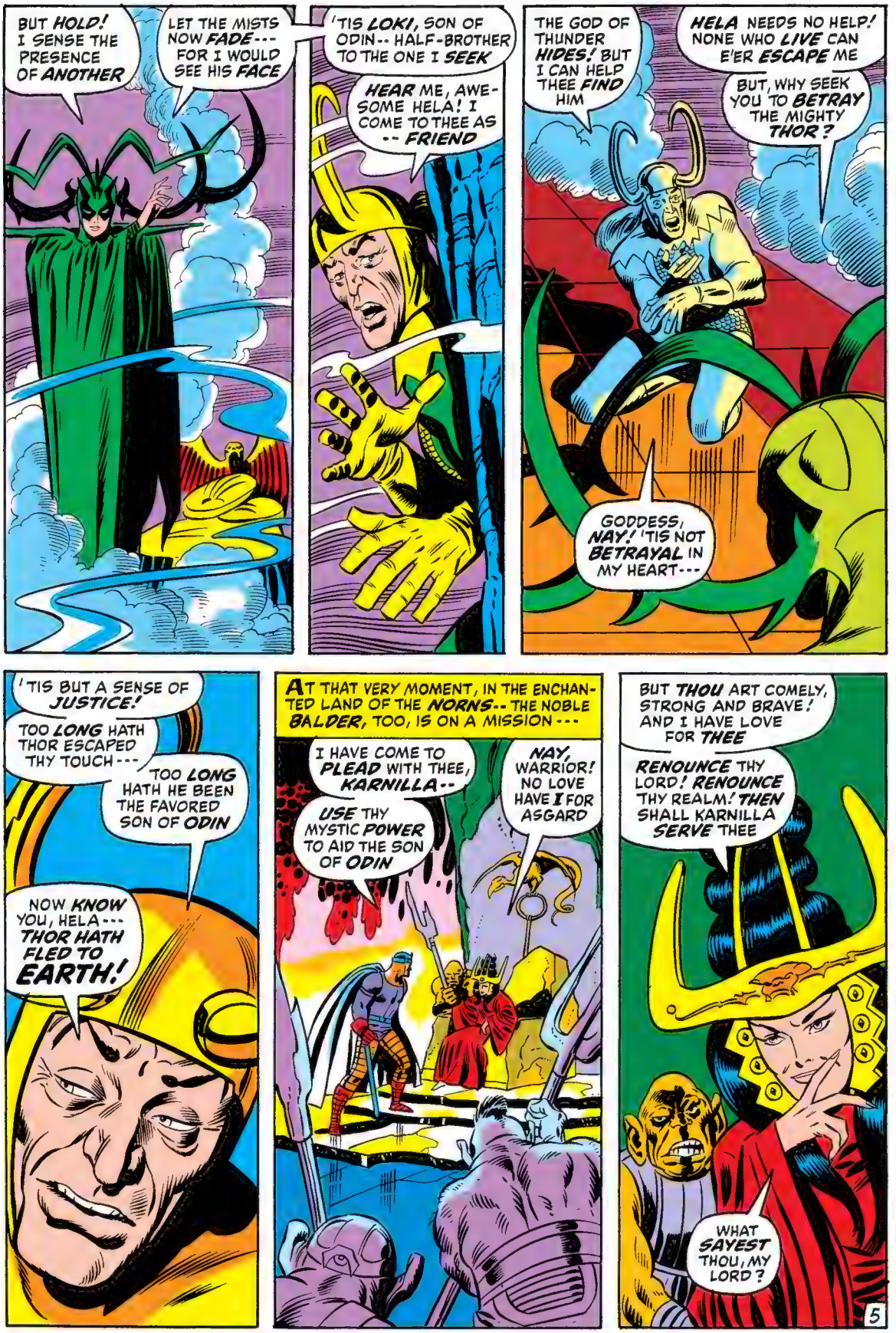
HEIMDALL-- BEHOLD! A GLISTENING, SPEEDING ARC OF LIGHT
AY! THE THUNDER GOD IS EARTHWARD BOUND
BUT, WILL HELA NOT SWIFTLY FOLLOW?


THRUOUT THE REALM, A NAMELESS FEAR-- A NUMBING DREAD FILLS THE HEARTS OF ALL ---
HELA SHALL COME-- IN SEARCH OF THOR
AND, IF SHE FINDS HIM NOT--
-- THEN WHO WILL FACE HER DEADLY WRATH?


BUT, EVEN AS THE TERROR MOUNTS, SHE WHO IS MISTRESS OF THE LIFE BEYOND THINKS HER AWESOME THOUGHTS WITHIN HER SILENT REALM--
SINCE TIME'S FIRST DAWNING, NONE WHO LIVE HAVE ESCAPED MY DEADLY TOUCH


YET, ODIN HAS CHALLENGED ME-- AND WON
MOST DEARLY MUST HE PAY-- FOR SUCH GROSS IMPERTINENCE

WHEN HELA FELLS THE THUNDER GOD -- THE BATTLE SHALL BE WON
ODIN'S SPIRIT SHALL BE BROKE
AND THE TOUCH OF DEATH SHALL RULE THE DAY
THEN, NO LONGER NEED HELA SEEK HER VICTIMS SLOWLY, ONE BY ONE
WITH ODIN CRUSHED BY BOUNDLESS GRIEF, WHO WILL DARE TO STAY MY HAND?
SOON ALL SHALL PASS THRU THE MISTS OF DEATH
WHY DO THE LIVING SO FEAR MY TOUCH?
BUT, ONE THING EVER BAFFLES ME---
DO I NOT BRING PEACE TO THOSE WHO LONG HAVE BORNE LIFE'S BURDEN?
DO I NOT BRING REST AT THE END OF LIFE'S WEARY JOURNEY?
DO I NOT BANISH PAIN FROM ALL WHO MAY SUFFER?
DO I NOT CURE ALL ILLS -- AND PUT AN END TO ALL WOUNDS?
WHY THEN MUST MEN HATE ME -- AND FEAR MY APPROACH?
IN TRUTH I AM GENTLE -- IN TRUTH I AM FAIR
TO ME, ALL ARE EQUAL! I DENY NONE MY EMBRACE
4


BUT HOLD! I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER
LET THE MISTS NOW FADE--- FOR I WOULD SEE HIS FACE
'TIS LOKI, SON OF ODIN-- HALF-BROTHER TO THE ONE I SEEK
HEAR ME, AWESOME HELA! I COME TO THEE AS -- FRIEND
THE GOD OF THUNDER HIDES! BUT I CAN HELP THEE FIND HIM
HELA NEEDS NO HELP! NONE WHO LIVE CAN E'ER ESCAPE ME
BUT, WHY SEEK YOU TO BETRAY THE MIGHTY THOR?
GODDESS, NAY! 'TIS NOT BETRAYAL IN MY HEART---
'TIS BUT A SENSE OF JUSTICE!
TOO LONG HATH THOR ESCAPED THY TOUCH---
TOO LONG HATH HE BEEN THE FAVORED SON OF ODIN
NOW KNOW YOU, HELA--- THOR HATH FLED TO EARTH!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE ENCHANTED LAND OF THE NORNS-- THE NOBLE BALDER, TOO, IS ON A MISSION---
I HAVE COME TO PLEAD WITH THEE, KARNILLA--
USE THY MYSTIC POWER TO AID THE SON OF ODIN
NAY, WARRIOR! NO LOVE HAVE I FOR ASGARD
BUT THOU ART COMELY, STRONG AND BRAVE! AND I HAVE LOVE FOR THEE
RENOUNCE THY LORD! RENOUNCE THY REALM! THEN SHALL KARNILLA SERVE THEE
WHAT SAYEST THOU, MY LORD?
5

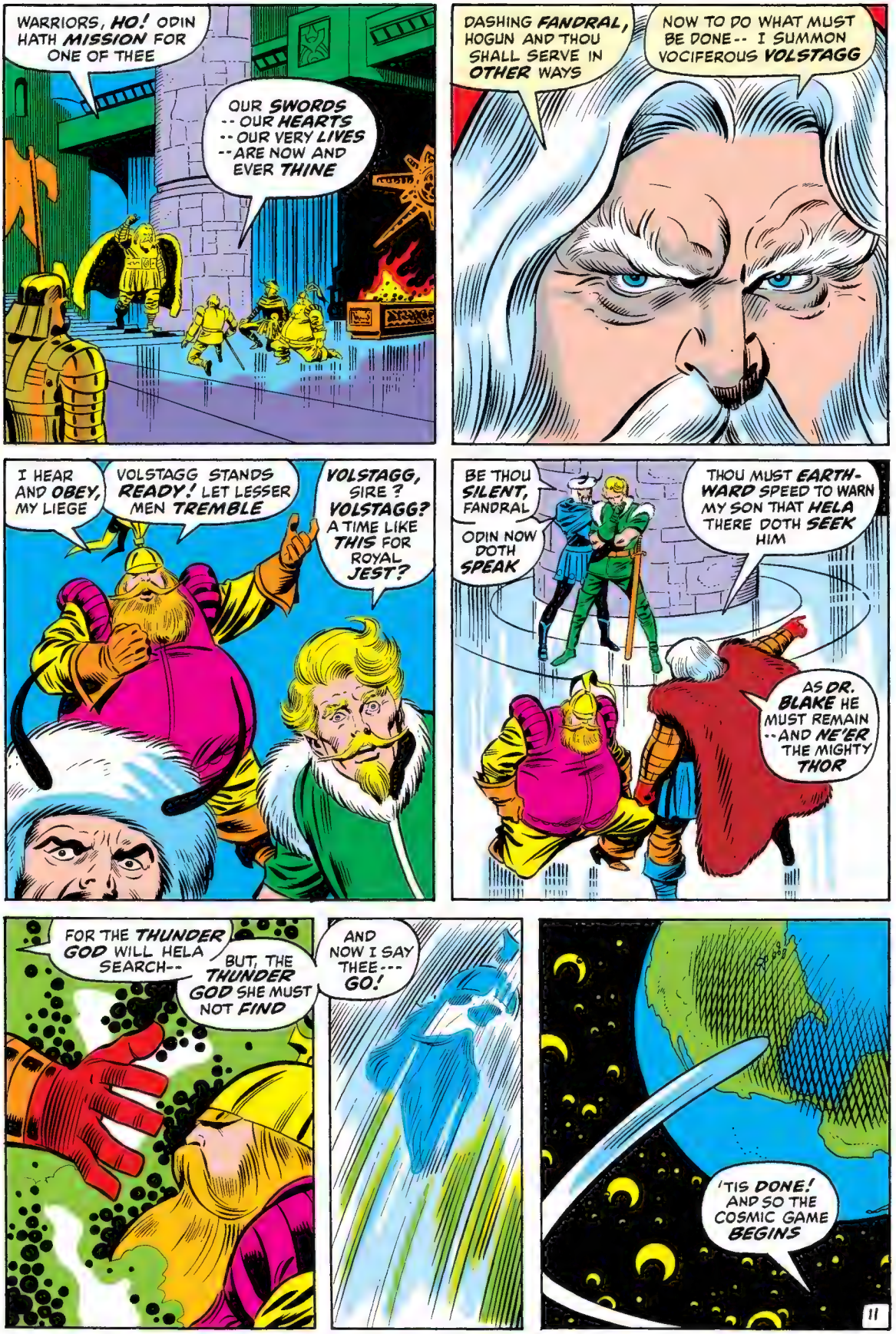
WHAT? DARE THOU DRAW THY BLADE 'GAINST ME?
THOU KNOWEST WELL I'LL HARM THEE NOT
FOR BALDER SHARES THY LOVE
YET, SO LONG AS THOU ART ASGARD'S FOE-- THEN THOU ART MINE AS WELL
NONE MAY DEFY THE QUEEN OF THE NORNS!
NOW YIELD-- OR TASTE MY STEEL
THOU SAYEST YIELD --TO BALDER?
HOW LITTLE THOU KNOWEST OF ASGARD'S METTLE
CEASE! CEASE!
KARNILLA CRIES CEASE!
NOT ALL THY PROWESS CAN SAVE THE GOD OF THUNDER
NONE BUT KARNILLA HOLDS THE KEY!
THOU SHALT TRIFLE WITH ME NO LONGER
SWEAR TO SERVE ME--- NOW AND FORE'ER--
AND I'LL HELP THEE SAVE THE MIGHTY THOR
REFUSE --AND HE SURELY DIES!
6

NONE BUT I CAN TELL THEE HOW TO SAVE THY FRIEND
DENY ME, AND KNOW THAT THOU HAST CAUSED HIS DEATH
MAY ODIN FORGIVE THE WORDS THAT NOW SHALL PASS MY TREMBLING LIPS---
I DO WHAT I DO--TO SAVE MY PRINCE
I RENOUNCE MY LIEGE! I RENOUNCE --THE REALM
KARNILLA--I SERVE ONLY--THEE!
THOU SHALT NOT REGRET THY CHOICE, MY LOVE
I SHALL BRING THEE BLISS--SUCH AS THOU HAST NEVER KNOWN
BUT, OH--THE PRICE I PAY, MY QUEEN
BUT NOW--THE BARGAIN! HOW SHALT THOU SAVE THE THUNDER GOD?
BY TELLING THEE WHAT I DO KNOW
WHAT I HAVE SEEN-- WITHIN THE MYSTIC VEIL---
LOKI HATH SPED TO HELA--TO BETRAY THE ONE SHE SEEKS
BUT THERE STILL IS TIME TO STOP HIM
DRINK --AND KARNILLA SHALL SHOW THEE HOW
THY BREW! IT DOTH BURN LIKE A THING ALIVE
THE PAIN WILL LEAVE--AND SO WILT THOU
7.

NOW GO! I SEND THEE TO THE REALM OF DEATH
THERE MUST THOU SILENCE THE VOICE OF EVIL LOKI
AND, AT THAT SAME SPLIT-SECOND...
IT MATTERS NOT THAT THOR HAS FLED TO EARTH
HELA'S HAND IS LONG-- IT REACHES EVERY-WHERE
BUT, HE PLANS TO TRICK THEE WHILST ON EARTH...
LOKI! STILL THY TONGUE!
ELSE BALDER'S BLADE SHALL DO THE TASK
BALDER! HOW COMEST THOU HERE?
ODIN HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF MY GOAL
SPEAK NOT HIS NAME TO ME AGAIN
I SERVE THY LIEGE --NO LONGER!
THEN LOKI NEED HAVE NO FEAR OF THEE
THY NAKED STEEL CAN DO NO HARM TO THE MASTER OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC
I NEED BUT TOUCH THY USELESS BLADE--
--TO FELL THEE--WITH A MYSTIC BOLT
8

I'LL NOT BE FELLED! I'LL NOT BE DOWNED
FOR THE LIFE OF THOR-- I FIGHT
LET A SWORD APPEAR BEFORE MY HANDS
NOW-- FOR THE LIFE OF THOR-- YOU DIE
FOR, THIS IS NO SIMPLE SWORD OF STEEL---
VILE LOKI-- THOU ART A COWARD TILL THE END
IT MATTERS NOT-- SO LONG AS THE END BE-- THINE!
WHAT GOOD YOUR SKILL-- 'GAINST MY MYSTIC BLADE?
FZANG
HAH! WITH A SINGLE BLOW I HAVE SHATTERED THY SWORD--
JUST AS MY SECOND THRUST SHALL TAKE THY LIFE
HELA GROWS BORED! I HAVE NO TASTE FOR BATTLE
MY REALM IS EVER STILL--- AND SILENT
AND SO SHALL IT REMAIN!
9

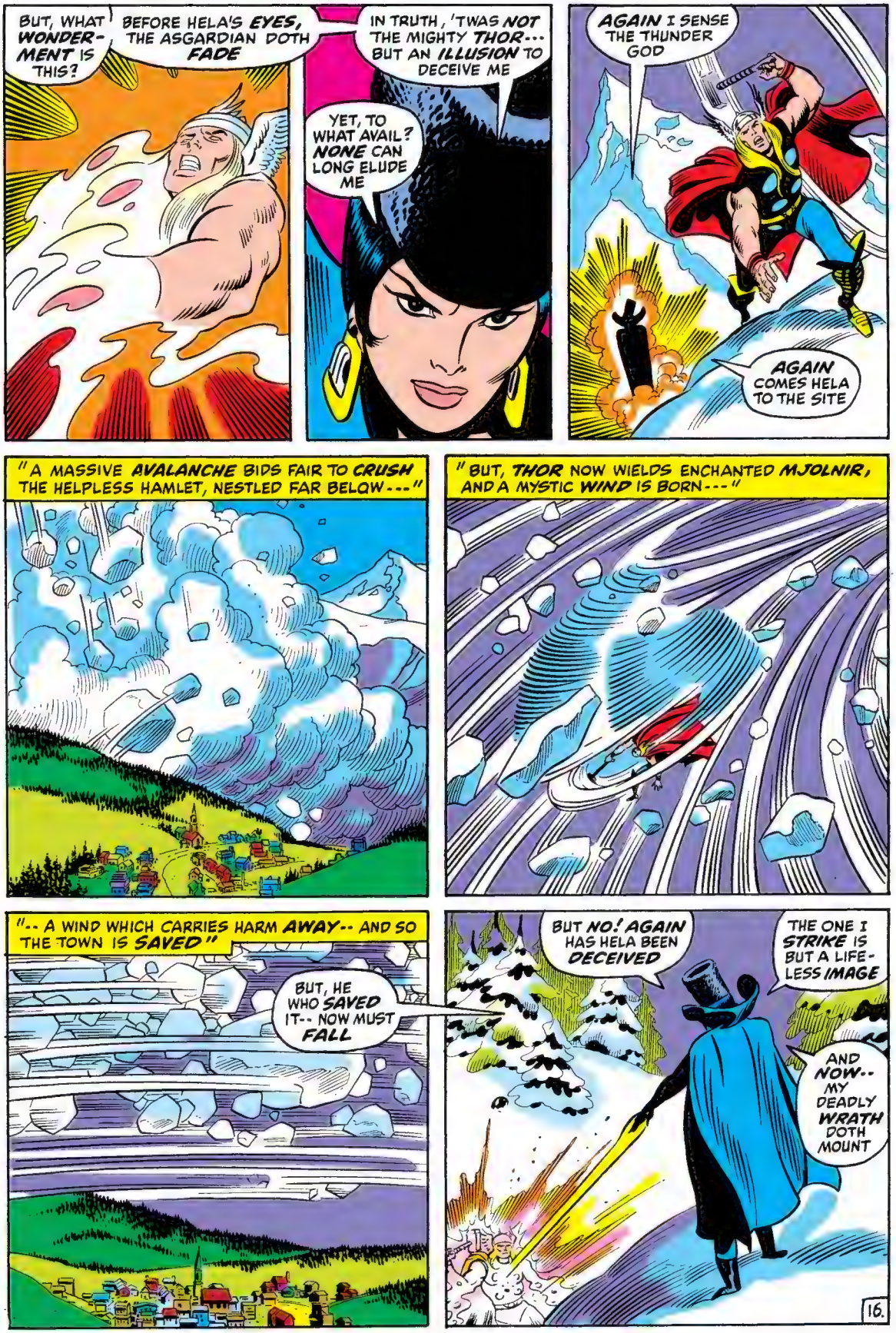
ASGARD!
HELA HATH SENT US-- BACK!
I CANNOT STRIKE BEFORE WATCHING EYES
I MUST FLEE-- ERE ODIN LEARNS WHAT I HAVE DONE
ODIN!??
I MUST GO TO HIM! BUT-- HOW CAN I FACE HIM WHOM I HAVE RENOUNCED?
APPROACH THE PRESENCE, LOYAL BALDER! I KNOW WHAT HATH OCCURRED
AND STILL THOU CALLEST ME LOYAL?
WHAT ELSE SHALL I CALL THEE, NOBLE ONE?
THOU HAST FORSAKEN ALL-- TO SAVE THY FRIEND
THESE BE DAYS OF WOE -- AND ANGUISH
DAYS TO SHAKE THE STRONGEST FAITH
BUT GOODNESS HATH ITS POWER, TOO---
LET THY WOUND BE CURED-- THY BLADE RESTORED
NOW REST YOU, BALDER
WOULD THAT MY SON COULD REST-- AS WELL
10


WARRIORS, HO! ODIN HATH MISSION FOR ONE OF THEE
OUR SWORDS -- OUR HEARTS -- OUR VERY LIVES --ARE NOW AND EVER THINE
DASHING FANDRAL, HOGUN AND THOU SHALL SERVE IN OTHER WAYS
NOW TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE-- I SUMMON VOCIFEROUS VOLSTAGG
I HEAR AND OBEY, MY LIEGE
VOLSTAGG STANDS READY! LET LESSER MEN TREMBLE
VOLSTAGG, SIRE ? VOLSTAGG? A TIME LIKE THIS FOR ROYAL JEST?
BE THOU SILENT, FANDRAL
ODIN NOW DOTH SPEAK
THOU MUST EARTH-WARD SPEED TO WARN MY SON THAT HELA THERE DOTH SEEK HIM
AS DR. BLAKE HE MUST REMAIN --AND NE'ER THE MIGHTY THOR
FOR THE THUNDER GOD WILL HELA SEARCH--
BUT, THE THUNDER GOD SHE MUST NOT FIND
AND NOW I SAY THEE--- GO!
'TIS DONE! AND SO THE COSMIC GAME BEGINS
11

HE HATH ARRIVED
BUT WHAT IF HE REACHES NOT THY SON IN TIME?
VOLSTAGG SHALL HAVE TIME ENOW
ODIN HATH A PLAN, WHEREBY TO CAUSE THE GODDESS HELA GREAT DELAY
'TIS GOOD, MY LORD! FOR, EVEN NOW METHINKS, FROM HER DREAD DOMAIN SHE DOTH DEPART
THE TIME IS COME-- FOR THOR TO FEEL MY FATAL TOUCH
AND SO, TO EARTH --FORTHWITH I GO
12
I GARB MYSELF IN EARTHLY RAIMENT
AND NOW TO WALK 'MONGST MEN ONCE MORE
HEY! WE'RE IN LUCK! HERE COMES JUST WHAT WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR--
BUT LOOKIT THE SIZE OF HER! IS SHE ON STILTS, OR SOMETHIN'?
THE BROAD LOOKS LOADED
26
WHO CARES--- 'LONG AS SHE'S GOT SOME BREAD!
STAND ASIDE! YOU BLOCK MY WAY
SHUDDUP! JUST HAND OVER YOUR DOUGH--- AND MAKE IT FAST
WHY-- IS SHE LOOKIN' ATCHA--LIKE THAT?
13

YA THINK I'M KIDDIN', HUH? DON'T THINK I'LL SHOOT, HUH?
I CARE NOT WHAT YOU MAY DO
MEBBE IT'S A TRAP! MEBBE--SHE'S A PLANT! DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES
YA DON'T HAVETA TELL ME TWICE
KRAK!
SHE--SHE'S JUST STANDIN' THERE
HER EYES! LOOK--AT HER EYES--
IT WAS NOT YET YOUR TIME
BUT, SINCE LIFE MEANS SO LITTLE TO YOU THAT YOU WOULD TAKE ANOTHER'S--
I SHALL HASTEN YOUR ENTRANCE--
--INTO MY SILENT REALM
AND NOW, THERE MUST BE NO FURTHER DELAY
FOR, HELA MUST FIND THE GOD OF THUNDER
14

EVEN THE MOST HUMBLE BEAST TREMBLES AT MY PRESENCE
AT HELA, WHO IS THE FINAL FRIEND OF ALL WHO LIVE
BUT HOLD! AT LAST I SENSE THE ONE I SEEK
HE IS IN A FAR DISTANT PART OF THIS TINY PLANET
BUT, TIME AND SPACE MEAN NAUGHT TO ME
WHERE HELA WOULDST GO--- THERE SHALL HELA BE
I KNOW NOT WHY THE SON OF ODIN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS IS FOUND
BUT NOT FOR ME IS WHY OR WHERE-FORE---
DEATH NO QUESTIONS ASKS-- NOR ANSWERS GIVES
15

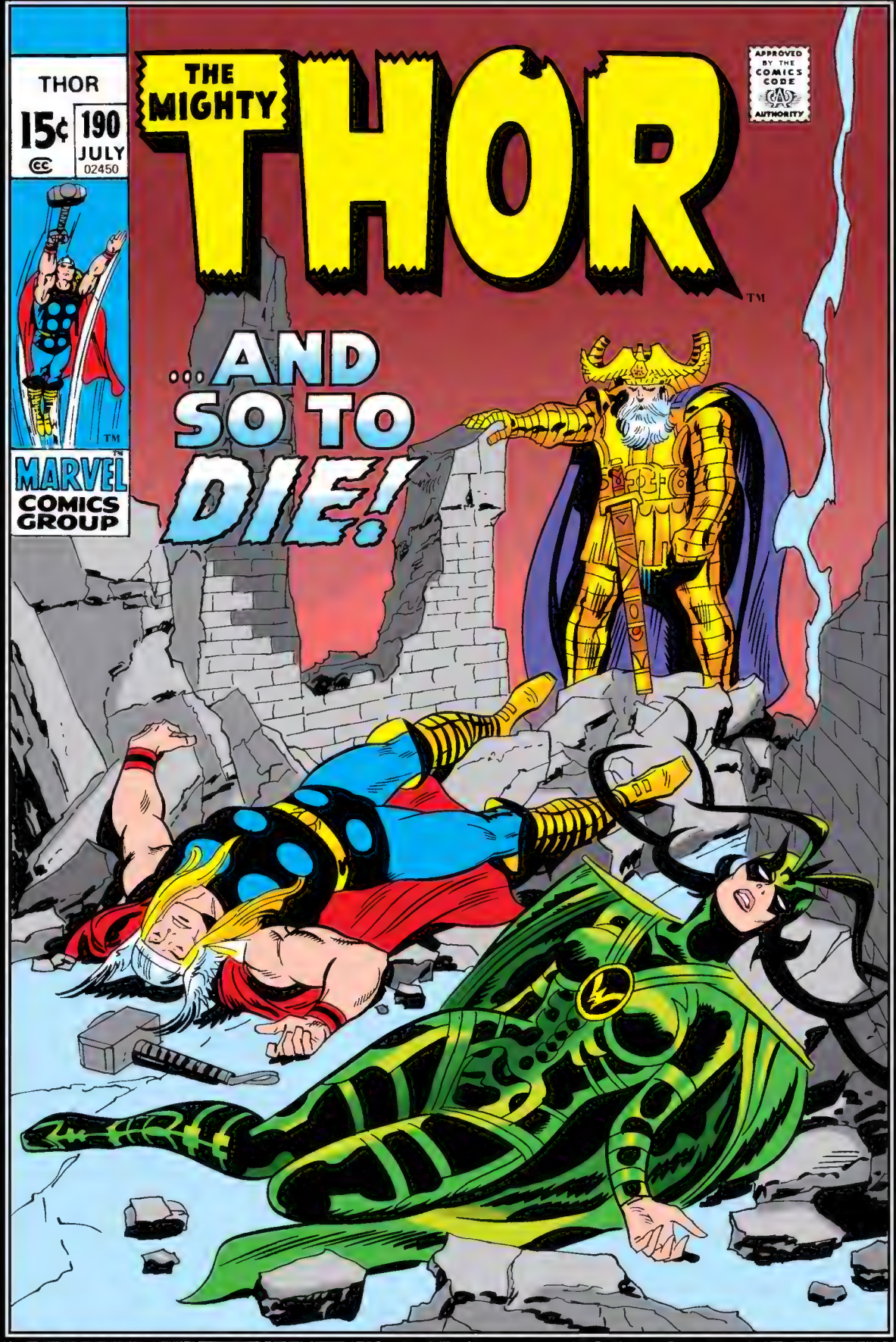

BUT, WHAT WONDER-MENT IS THIS?
BEFORE HELA'S EYES, THE ASGARDIAN DOTH FADE
IN TRUTH, 'TWAS NOT THE MIGHTY THOR--- BUT AN ILLUSION TO DECEIVE ME
YET, TO WHAT AVAIL? NONE CAN LONG ELUDE ME
AGAIN I SENSE THE THUNDER GOD
AGAIN COMES HELA TO THE SITE
"A MASSIVE AVALANCHE BIDS FAIR TO CRUSH THE HELPLESS HAMLET, NESTLED FAR BELOW---"
"BUT, THOR NOW WIELDS ENCHANTED MJOLNIR, AND A MYSTIC WIND IS BORN---"
"-- A WIND WHICH CARRIES HARM AWAY-- AND SO THE TOWN IS SAVED"
BUT, HE WHO SAVED IT-- NOW MUST FALL
BUT NO! AGAIN HAS HELA BEEN DECEIVED
THE ONE I STRIKE IS BUT A LIFE-LESS IMAGE
AND NOW-- MY DEADLY WRATH DOTH MOUNT
16.

THINE ILLUSIONS, SIRE, HAVE SERVED THEE WELL
AY, WISE VIZIER-- WE HAVE GAINED MY SON THE TIME THAT HE DOTH NEED
NOW, ERE HELA CAN ACHIEVE HER GOAL, VOLSTAGG SHALL HAVE REACHED MY PRINCE
AND, AS ODIN THINKS HIS ODIN-THOUGHTS...
HOLD IT, FAT STUFF! NO ONE GETS IN HERE WITHOUT A TOKEN
TOKEN? WHAT DOTH VOLSTAGG KNOW OF TOKENS?
THOU WITLESS CHURL, UNHAND ME-- LEST, IN MY LORDLY RAGE, I SMITE THEE
LET 'IM GO, BERNIE-- IT AIN'T WORTH IT
HE'S PROBABLY IN A HURRY TO GIT BACK TO THE FUNNY FARM
I KEPT EXPECTIN' SOMEONE TO SAY "SMILE! YER ON CANDID CAMERA"
DAMSEL, REJOICE! FORTUNE NOW DOTH SMILE 'PON THEE
THOU ART OFFERED A SEAT BY VALIANT VOLSTAGG--- WHO FINDS THEE FAIREST OF THE FAIR
GIT LOST, CREEP, BEFORE I CALL THE FUZZ
NAY, DO NOT SWOON, MY LADY! LET NOT MY HEROIC CHARM O'ERWHELM THEE
LATER, AT CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL--
DOCTOR! THERE'S SOMEONE NAMED-- VOLSTAGG--TO SEE YOU
HE SAID-- HE'D HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER-- BUT THEY DETAINED HIM-- AT THE PSYCHO WARD
VOLSTAGG?!! SHOW HIM IN --QUICKLY
17.

LATER--
SO LOKI BETRAYED ME
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN
NOW HELA WILL SEARCH FOR ME ON EARTH--- INSTEAD OF ASGARD
BUT SHE'LL STILL BE SEEKING THOR --NOT DONALD BLAKE
NOT FOR AN INSTANT MUST THOR APPEAR
DEATH'S MISTRESS WOULD SENSE THEE-- AND 'TWOULD ALL BE O'ER
BUT I CANNOT HIDE FROM HER FOREVER
AT ANY RATE, RETURN, OLD FRIEND! YOU'VE DONE YOUR SHARE -- THE REST IS UP TO ME
MEANWHILE---
HERE, WITHIN THIS CITY, I SENSE MY PREY
BUT, SOMETHING IS AMISS
THOUGH THOR IS HERE-- THERE IS NO THOR
STAR CAB CO.
YET, HELA MAY NOT BE DENIED
IF I CANNOT REACH THE THUNDER GOD-- THEN HE MUST COME TO ME
HIDE THOUGH HE MAY-- THE CALL OF DUTY SHALL BRING HIM FORTH
WHAT'S HAPPENING? ALL OF A SUDDEN-- I FEEL-- SO STRANGE--
FDNY
-- GETTING TIRED-- WEAK-- AND-- AND OLD! I-- I'M AGING -- IN A MATTER OF-- SECONDS
FDNY
18.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE, BUT--
WE'RE-- ABOUT TO DIE-- OF OLD AGE
THAT ANNOUNCE-MENT ON THE RADIO--
FIREMEN MYSTERIOUSLY AGING-- UNABLE TO SAVE THE VICTIMS OF A BLAZING BUILDING
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, BUT---
IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE, INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL DIE IN THE FLAMES
AND, NO MATTER THE RISK--
THOR SHALL SAY DEATH NAY!
ONLY ONE HATH THE POWER TO MAKE MEN AGE---
ONLY ONE WOULDST FAIN TOY WITH HELP-LESS LIFE--
BUT HOLD! WHAT TRAGEDY DOTH LOOM?
VICTIMS-- POISED 'PON WINDOW LEDGES--- AND NONE TO LEND THEM AID
MORTALS! HEAR THE WORDS OF THOR--
TO THEE I SAY-- TAKE HEART
THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT! JUST A LITTLE CLOSER--
IT'S A MIRACLE! HE-- HE'S SAVING US ALL
OH, NO! THE WHOLE BUILDING'S STARTING TO COLLAPSE!
THERE'S DOZEN'S MORE -- TRAPPED INSIDE!

LOOK! HE'S STOPPING IT FROM FALLING-- BY THE STRENGTH OF HIS OWN BODY
BUT THE FIRE! IT-- IT'S STILL RAGING
AS I BE GOD OF THUNDER-- I SUMMON FORTH THE RAIN
THE FLAMES SHALL RAGE NO MORE
WELL DONE, SON OF ODIN! YOUR FINAL DEED HAS BEEN --MOST NOBLE
HELA! I KNEW I WOULDST FIND THEE HERE
BUT, AS THOR WAS BATTLE BORN-- SO SHALL HE DIE!
RAISE NOT YOUR HAMMER--
DEFY ME, AND THE HAPLESS MORTALS FALL
YIELD-- AND I TAKE NO LIVES-- BUT THINE
I-- CANNOT CAUSE-- THE DEATH OF OTHERS
THE GOD OF THUNDER --YIELDS
THEN HELA HAS WON-- AT LAST
AND NOW--
--SHE CLAIMS HER PRIZE
NEXT:
THE AWESOME
END


THOR
15¢
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JULY
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THE MIGHTY
THOR
™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
...AND SO TO DIE!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

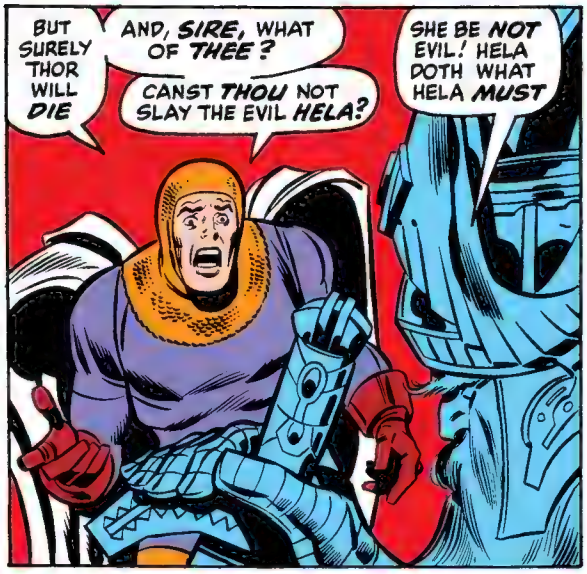
# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

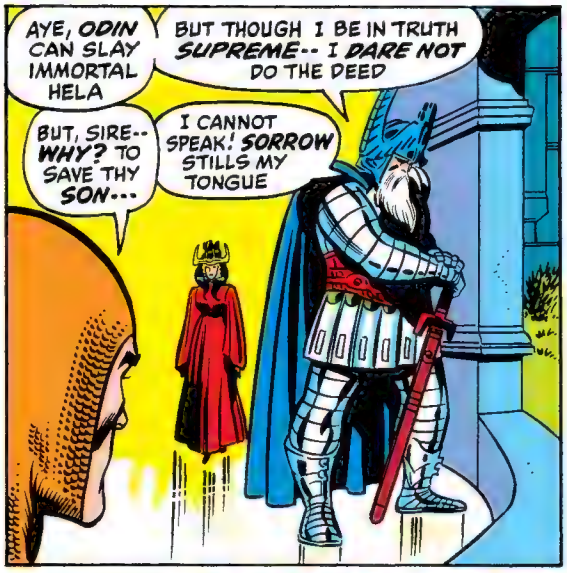
..AND SO, TO DIE!
NO LONGER NEED I DISGUISE MYSELF AS A A MORTAL EARTHLING--
NOW THAT I AM ABOUT TO STRIKE-- I DO SO AS HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH
SO! THOU HAST FOUND THE THUNDER GOD AT LAST!
THUS, THOR MUST FACE THY FATAL TOUCH
CAUTION!
READ ONLY AS DIRECTED!
GRANDEUR SUCH AS THIS MAY BE HABIT-FORMING!
JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL--- WAIT'LL YOU TURN TO THE AWESOME ENDING!
STAN LEE AUTHOR and JOHN BUSCEMA ILLUSTRATOR
NOW EXCEED THEIR FORMER TRIUMPHS, AIDED AND ABETTED BY
JOE SINNOTT EMBELLISHER and SAM ROSEN LETTERER
6428

NEVER HAS THE SON OF ODIN ACCEPTED BASE DEFEAT
IF DEATH MUST COME TO THOR THIS DAY---
THEN THOR SHALL FACE IT-- FIGHTING
NOT SO, ASGARDIAN! RESIST ME, AND ALL WITHIN MY SIGHT SHALL DIE
NAY! A THOUSAND TIMES NAY! NONE WHO BE INNOCENT MUST FALL IN MY STEAD
THEN STAND THY GROUND-- AND ACCEPT MY TOUCH
BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD! I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE
THE TIME IS COME FOR THOR TO DIE
BUT NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT! LET'S QUICKLY TURN TO THE GOLDEN REALM, WHERE THE BRAVE BALDER RECOVERS FROM HIS RECENT BATTLE WITH LOKI ---
IN ORDER TO SAVE THE MIGHTY THOR--
I DISAVOWED ALMIGHTY ODIN--
AND SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO THE NORN QUEEN, KARNILLA
WHY MUST THOU BE ENEMY TO ALL I HOLD DEAR?
KARNILLA! KARNILLA! HOW CAN MY HEART HOLD SUCH LOVE FOR THEE?
2.

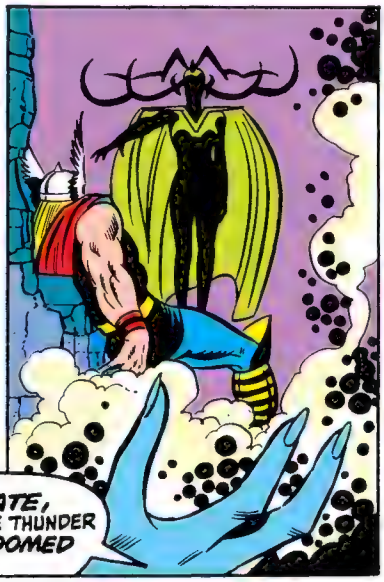
I AM NOT AS MUCH ENEMY AS YOU MAY THINK, BELOVED
ONCE AGAIN THE QUEEN OF THE NORNS DOTH COME TO GIVE THEE AID
BEGONE, ENCHANTRESS! HAUNT NOT BALDER'S DREAMS
AM I NE'ER TO BE FREE OF THY TAUNTS -- OF THY SPELLS?
AWAKE, MY LORD
IN TRUTH -- THIS IS NO DREAM
KARNILLA! THOU HAST CONJURED THYSELF TO BALDER'S SIDE
BUT NOW I ASK THEE -- WHY?
TO WARN THEE AGAIN OF THE THUNDER GOD'S PLIGHT
BUT IS HE NOT SAFELY HID -- UPON THE PLANET EARTH?
NOT SO, MY BRAVE ONE! HELA HATH FOUND HIM OUT
BEHOLD! THY QUEEN SHALL SHOW THEE --
SCANT SECONDS REMAIN 'ERE THOR SHALL FALL --- FOREVER
NAY! NOT WHILST BALDER STILL DOTH LIVE
NOT WHILST ODIN CAN BE WARNED
BUT REMEMBER WELL -- THINE ALLEGIANCE IS PLEDGED TO ME
3.

MY LORD! MY LORD! MOST NOBLE LIEGE
HELA HATH FOUND THY SON
EVEN AS MY WORDS RING FORTH-- HER TOUCH HATH ALMOST CLAIMED HIM
SAY THOU NO MORE
I AM ALREADY SICK AND PALE WITH GRIEF--
THOUGH I BE ODIN, LORD OF ALL--- THOUGH I BE THE POWER AND THE WAY--
FROM THIS I CANNOT SAVE HIM


BUT SURELY THOR WILL DIE
AND, SIRE, WHAT OF THEE?
CANST THOU NOT SLAY THE EVIL HELA?
SHE BE NOT EVIL! HELA DOTH WHAT HELA MUST


AYE, ODIN CAN SLAY IMMORTAL HELA
BUT THOUGH I BE IN TRUTH SUPREME-- I DARE NOT DO THE DEED
BUT, SIRE-- WHY? TO SAVE THY SON---
I CANNOT SPEAK! SORROW STILLS MY TONGUE

KARNILLA! THOU MUST CAST ANOTHER SPELL
MAYHAP IF ODIN SEES WHAT WE HAVE SEEN---


TOO LATE, ALAS! THE THUNDER GOD IS DOOMED

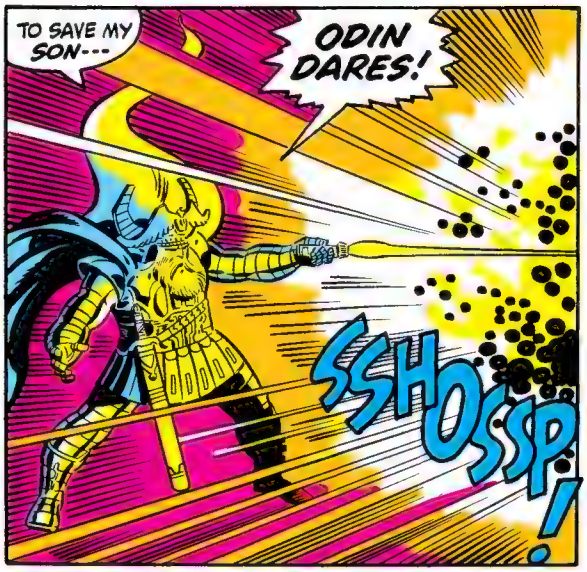
I SAY THEE NAY! THE MIGHTY THOR SHALL LIVE!
4

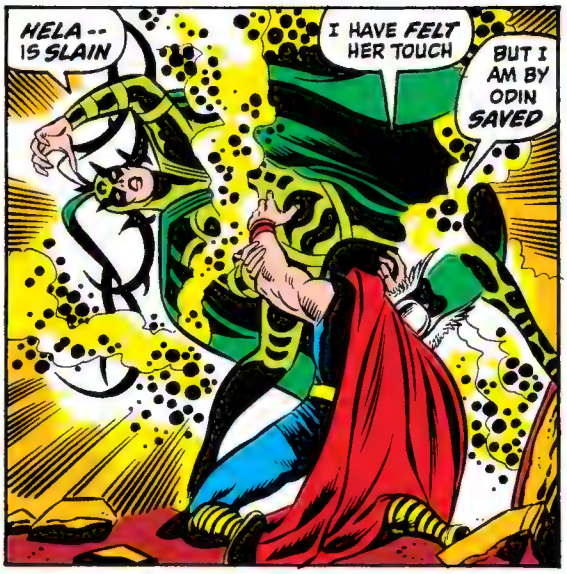
WHILE, BACK ON EARTH---
YOU WERE VALIANT TO THE END
FAREWELL, ASGARDIAN
HELP HELP
WHAT ANGUISHED CRIES ASSAIL MINE EARS?
HELA! THOU HAST BROKE THY WORD
YON HUMANS FADE! THEY VANISH INTO NOTHING-NESS
'TIS NOT MY DOING, THUNDER GOD
I'LL HEAR NO MORE! NOW THOR IS FREE TO ACT
MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER SHALL LEAD THEE FAR FROM EARTH---
--AS ONLY MJOLNIR CAN
THEN, WHEN I HAVE LOST HER-- THOR SHALL STRIKE ONCE MORE
BUT HELA SHALL NOT KNOW THE WHERE OR WHEN
5

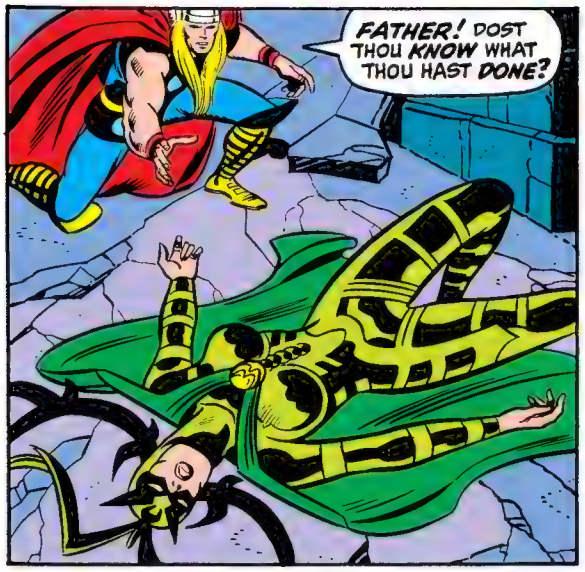
FLIGHT IS USELESS
TO HELA, ALL OF TIME AND SPACE ARE ONE
THERE IS NO TIME--- THERE IS NO PLACE--- WHERE DEATH DOES NOT HOLD SWAY
THERE BE NO SHAME IN LOSING
BUT, A GOD SURRENDERS NOT
FIGHT ON THEN, THOR
BUT THERE IS NO NEED! THY PLACE IN VALHALLA IS ASSURED
BUT NOW, I WEARY OF THE GAME
AND SO I SAY THEE--- CEASE
NO LONGER WILL HELA BE DENIED
SO, BACK TO EARTH WE NOW RETURN
AND THUS IT ENDS-- AT LAST
6

IF THERE BE NO HOPE-- AND NO ESCAPE---
THEN, THOR DOTH SAY TO THEE---
IF DEATH MUST COME, I FEAR IT NOT
AS A GOD I LIVED! AS A GOD I DIE
THEN ALL IS SAID! THE TIME IS COME
BUT, EVEN NOW, AS I DRAW NEAR--
THE GROUND BENEATH ME SEEMS TO SHAKE
THE CITY TWISTS AND SWAYS AS THOUGH INSANE
THE BUILDINGS BEND--AND LEAN MY WAY
EVER NEARER DO THEY DRAW--- AS IF TO CRUSH ME
AND, SINCE NO NATURAL FEAT IS THIS--
IT CAN BUT BE THE DEED OF---
ODIN!
I, THE BE-ALL, THE END-ALL, THE WORD AND THE WAY, HAVE COME!

HELA, HEAR MY WORDS
THOUGH I BE THE POWER, AND THE LIGHT--- THE JUDGEMENT AND THE WILL-- THOUGH I BE SOVEREIGN SUPREME OF ALL THAT WAS AND IS, AND YET SHALL BE--- I BE ONE THING MORE---
I BE FATHER TO THE THUNDER GOD
AND, TO THEE I SAY ---THOR SHALL NOT DIE
POINT NOT YOUR POWER SCEPTRE AT HELA
YOU KNOW FULL WELL-- WHILE I DO LIVE, NOT EVEN YOU MAY STOP ME--
AND, EVEN LORDLY ODIN WOULD NOT DARE TO SLAY ME

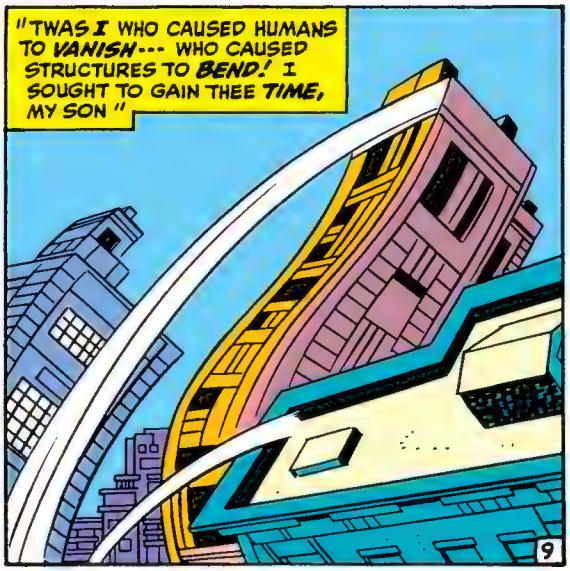

TO SAVE MY SON---
ODIN DARES!
SSHOSSP!


HELA -- IS SLAIN
I HAVE FELT HER TOUCH
BUT I AM BY ODIN SAVED

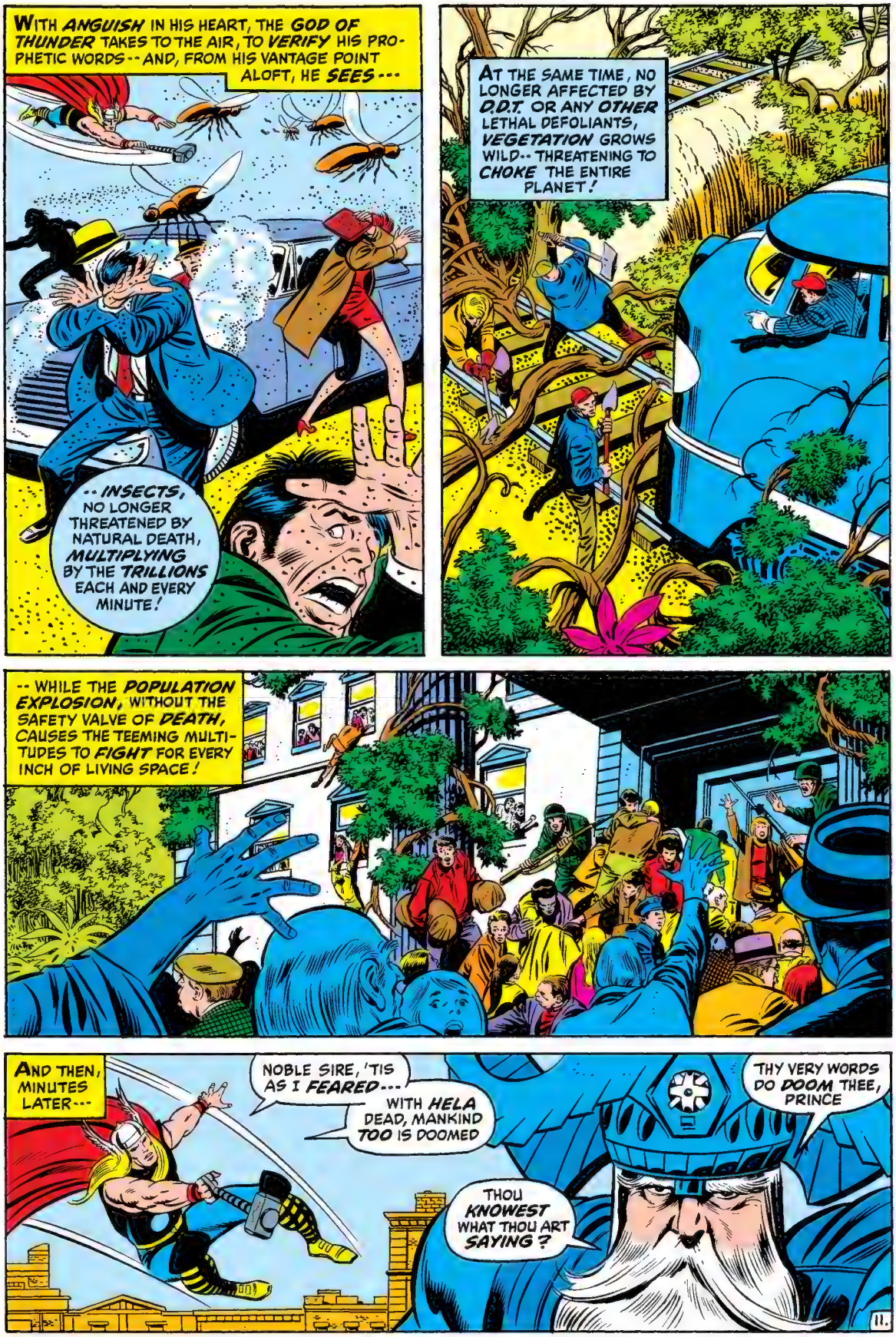

FATHER! DOST THOU KNOW WHAT THOU HAST DONE?

THOU HAST PUT AN END TO DEATH
THOU ART FLESH OF MY FLESH --- PRIDE OF MY HEART
ODIN COULD DO NO LESS

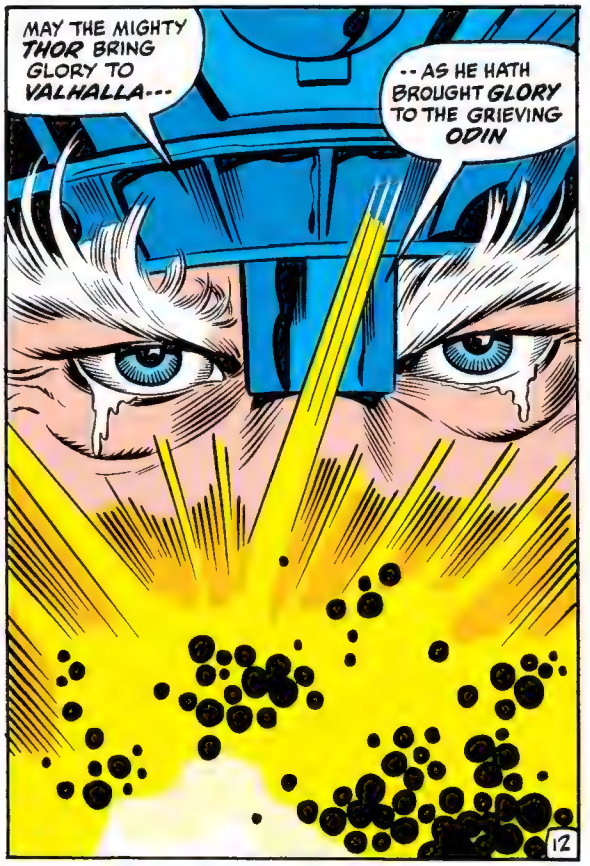
" NOW, AT MY COMMAND, LET ALL BE AS IT WAS, BEFORE I ALTERED LIFE ON EARTH "


" TWAS I WHO CAUSED HUMANS TO VANISH --- WHO CAUSED STRUCTURES TO BEND! I SOUGHT TO GAIN THEE TIME, MY SON "

BUT, SIRE! IN SAVING ME, THINK WHAT THOU HAST DONE-- TO ALL THE HUMAN RACE
IT CANNOT BE! IT MUST NOT BE
THOU KNOWEST WELL THE REASON WHY HELA NE'ER MUST PERISH
DRUG STORE
BELOVED LIEGE, MY HEART IS FULL WITH GRATITUDE UNBOUNDED
AND YET-- I CANNOT ACCEPT THE GIFT OF LIFE-- NOT WHEN I KNOW THE AWFUL PRICE A UNIVERSE MUST PAY
THY WORDS ARE THE WORDS OF A GOD TRUE BORN
BUT, HOW CAN I FORGET-- THOU ART MY SON?
THOR HATH BEEN THY SON IN LIFE! SHALL HE BE LESS IN DEATH?
BELIEVE ME, FATHER-- I FIND LIFE SWEET-- AND HAVE NO WISH TO DIE! BUT, LET ME DIE A THOUSAND TIMES, RATHER THAN CAUSE THE CALAMITY WHICH IS TO COME
EVEN AS I SPEAK-- THE CHAOS DOTH BEGIN
10.


WITH ANGUISH IN HIS HEART, THE GOD OF THUNDER TAKES TO THE AIR, TO VERIFY HIS PROPHETIC WORDS--AND, FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT ALOFT, HE SEES---
--INSECTS, NO LONGER THREATENED BY NATURAL DEATH, MULTIPLYING BY THE TRILLIONS EACH AND EVERY MINUTE!
AT THE SAME TIME, NO LONGER AFFECTED BY D.D.T. OR ANY OTHER LETHAL DEFOLIANTS, VEGETATION GROWS WILD--THREATENING TO CHOKE THE ENTIRE PLANET!
--WHILE THE POPULATION EXPLOSION, WITHOUT THE SAFETY VALVE OF DEATH, CAUSES THE TEEMING MULTITUDES TO FIGHT FOR EVERY INCH OF LIVING SPACE!
AND THEN, MINUTES LATER---
NOBLE SIRE, 'TIS AS I FEARED---
WITH HELA DEAD, MANKIND TOO IS DOOMED
THOU KNOWEST WHAT THOU ART SAYING?
THY VERY WORDS DO DOOM THEE, PRINCE
11.

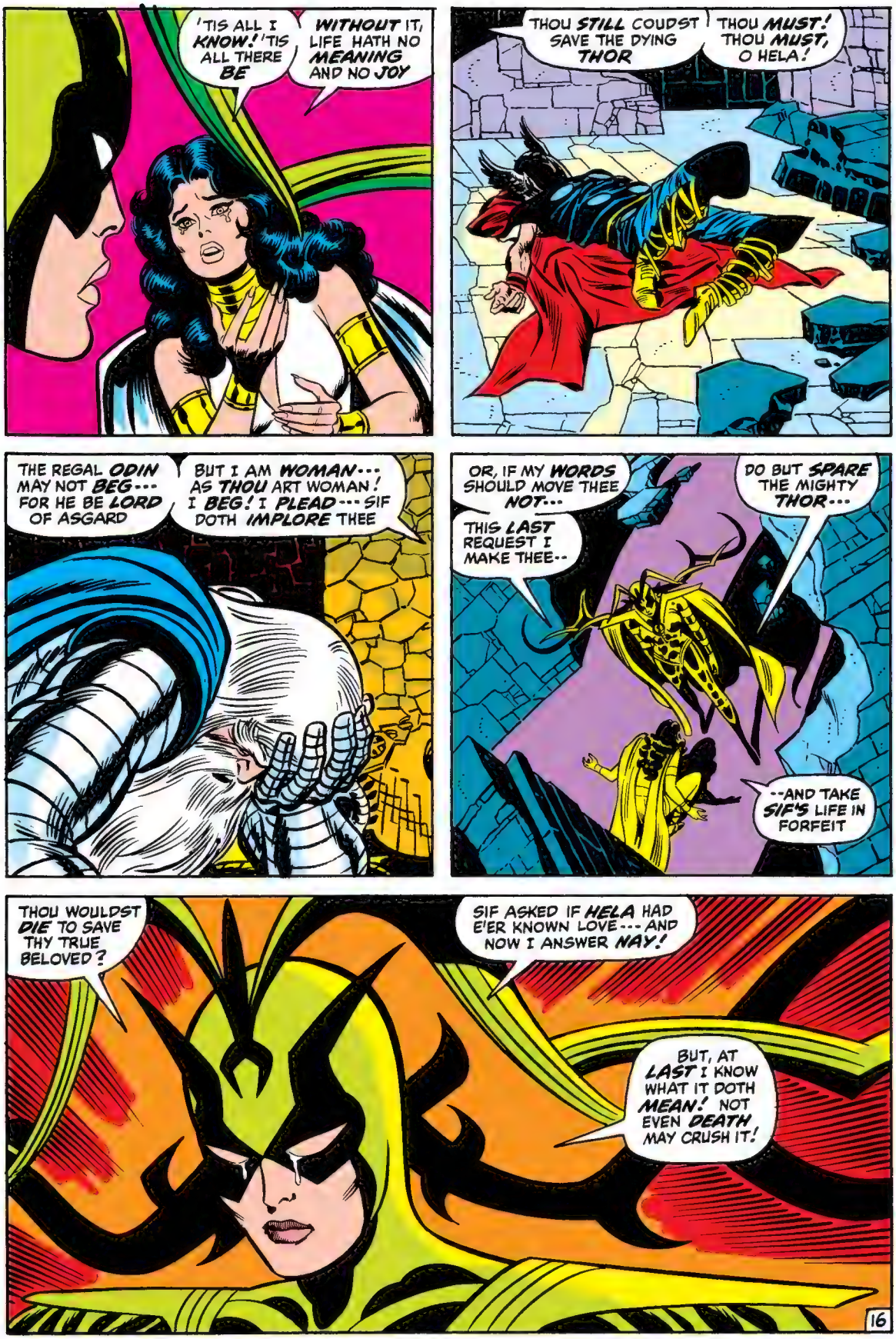
ALAS, FATHER-- WE BOTH DO KNOW WHAT THOU MUST DO
THERE BE NO OTHER WAY
THEN I PRAY FOR THEE, BELOVED SON
HELA MUST LIVE! AND THOR MUST DIE


MAY THE MIGHTY THOR BRING GLORY TO VALHALLA---
-- AS HE HATH BROUGHT GLORY TO THE GRIEVING ODIN
12

THAT WHICH I HAVE DONE, I NOW UNDO! ODIN SAYS THEE --- LIVE!
SO SHALL IT BE!
13

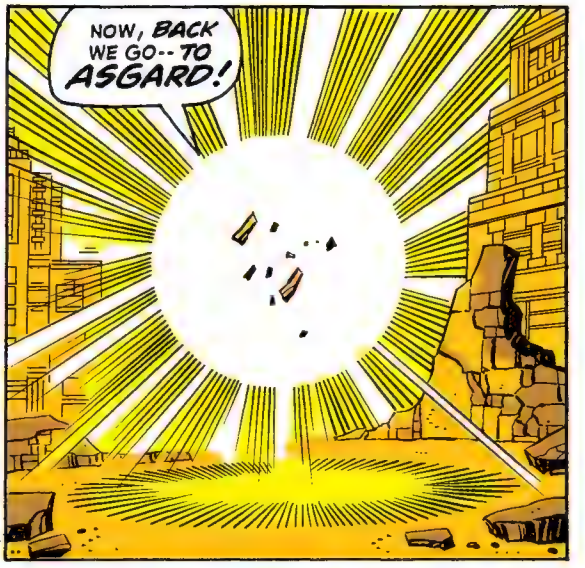
ODIN IS WISDOM! ODIN IS TRUTH!
ODIN HATH REALIZED THAT DEATH MAY NOT DIE
GODDESS, DO WHAT THOU MUST! BUT, DO IT IN SILENCE
MY GRIEF DOTH SURPASS THE SPOKEN WORD
MY FATHER-- FAREWELL
WE HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT! THE BATTLE-- HATH ENDED
AS THOU WERT FEARLESS IN LIFE---
SO ART THOU STILL-- -- IN DEATH
THOU WERT A GOD TO THE END
NOW VALHALLA AWAITS THEE
THE ANCIENT RITUAL HATH BEGUN
THE AGING OF THE PRIDE OF ASGARD
HELA, BE THOU MERCIFUL! LET THE END BE SWIFT
14

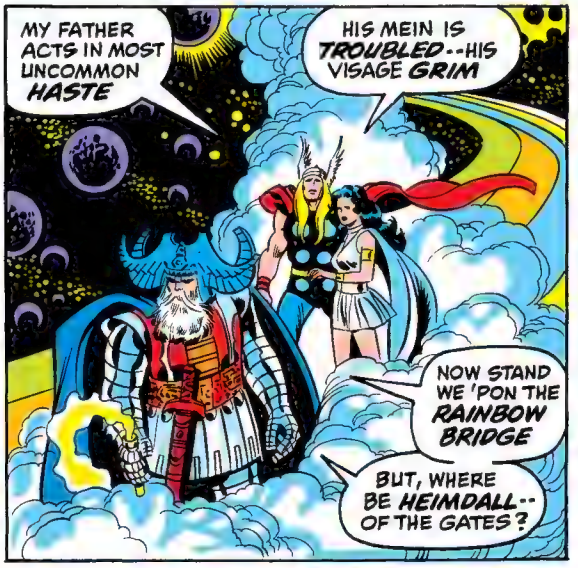
BE THOU ASSURED! SOON SHALT THOU MOURN
LESS THAN TEN HEARTBEATS REMAIN
STILL TIME ENOW FOR ONE THING MORE
THERE BE ANOTHER WHO BELONGETH AT HIS SIDE
'TIS ONLY FITTING THAT SHE WHO LOVETH HIM MOST SHOULD BE HERE NOW
I SUMMON--- THE LADY SIF
BELOVED! HAVE I FOUND THEE---
--ONLY TO LOSE THEE--- FORE'ER?
NAY! I SAY THEE NAY, MY LORD---
I HAVE NO WEAPON THAT MAY SAVE THEE--
BUT I HAVE--- A WOMAN'S HEART
HELA! THOUGH THOU BE THE QUEEN OF DEATH-- THOU ART A WOMAN, TOO
WHY SPEAKEST THOU TO ME OF LOVE?
SURELY LOVE HATH TOUCHED THINE HEART?
15

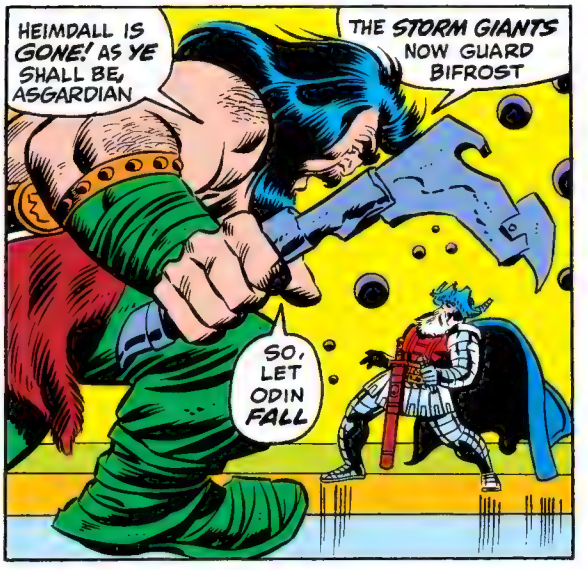

'TIS ALL I KNOW! 'TIS ALL THERE BE
WITHOUT IT, LIFE HATH NO MEANING AND NO JOY
THOU STILL COUDST SAVE THE DYING THOR
THOU MUST! THOU MUST, O HELA!
THE REGAL ODIN MAY NOT BEG--- FOR HE BE LORD OF ASGARD
BUT I AM WOMAN--- AS THOU ART WOMAN! I BEG! I PLEAD--- SIF DOTH IMPLORE THEE
OR, IF MY WORDS SHOULD MOVE THEE NOT---
THIS LAST REQUEST I MAKE THEE--
DO BUT SPARE THE MIGHTY THOR---
--AND TAKE SIF'S LIFE IN FORFEIT
THOU WOULDST DIE TO SAVE THY TRUE BELOVED?
SIF ASKED IF HELA HAD E'ER KNOWN LOVE--- AND NOW I ANSWER NAY!
BUT, AT LAST I KNOW WHAT IT DOTH MEAN! NOT EVEN DEATH MAY CRUSH IT!

THEN TAKE THY LORD, THE WARRIOR GOD
I GIVE THEE MIGHTY THOR
YEA, JUST THIS ONCE, BECAUSE OF SIF--
--HELA HATH LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE --WOMAN
'TWAS NOT HIS TIME TO MEET HIS DEATH
HELA HATH WAITED BEFORE--- SHE WILL DO SO AGAIN
MY LOVE! MY LORD! BELOVED PRINCE! THOR DOTH LIVE AGAIN
BECAUSE OF THEE, MY LADY
I OWE MY LIFE TO THE TENDER SIF
ASGARDIANS--- FAREWELL
WHEN NEXT I COME, NOT ALL THY TEARS--- NOT ALL THY PLEAS--- SHALL STAY ME
--TILL THEN, REJOICE! YE HAVE EACH OTHER--WHILE HELA ENDURES --ALONE!

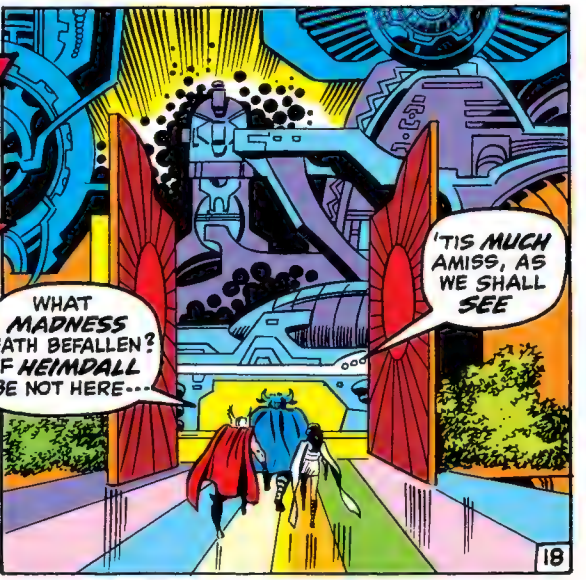
SIRE-- THOU SEEMEST NOT SURPRISED
COULDST THOU HAVE KNOWN HOW ALL WOULD END?
FOR THOU DIDST SUMMON SIF
I AM THE WAY! I AM THE LIGHT! AND NONE MAY SHARE MINE ODIN-THOUGHTS!

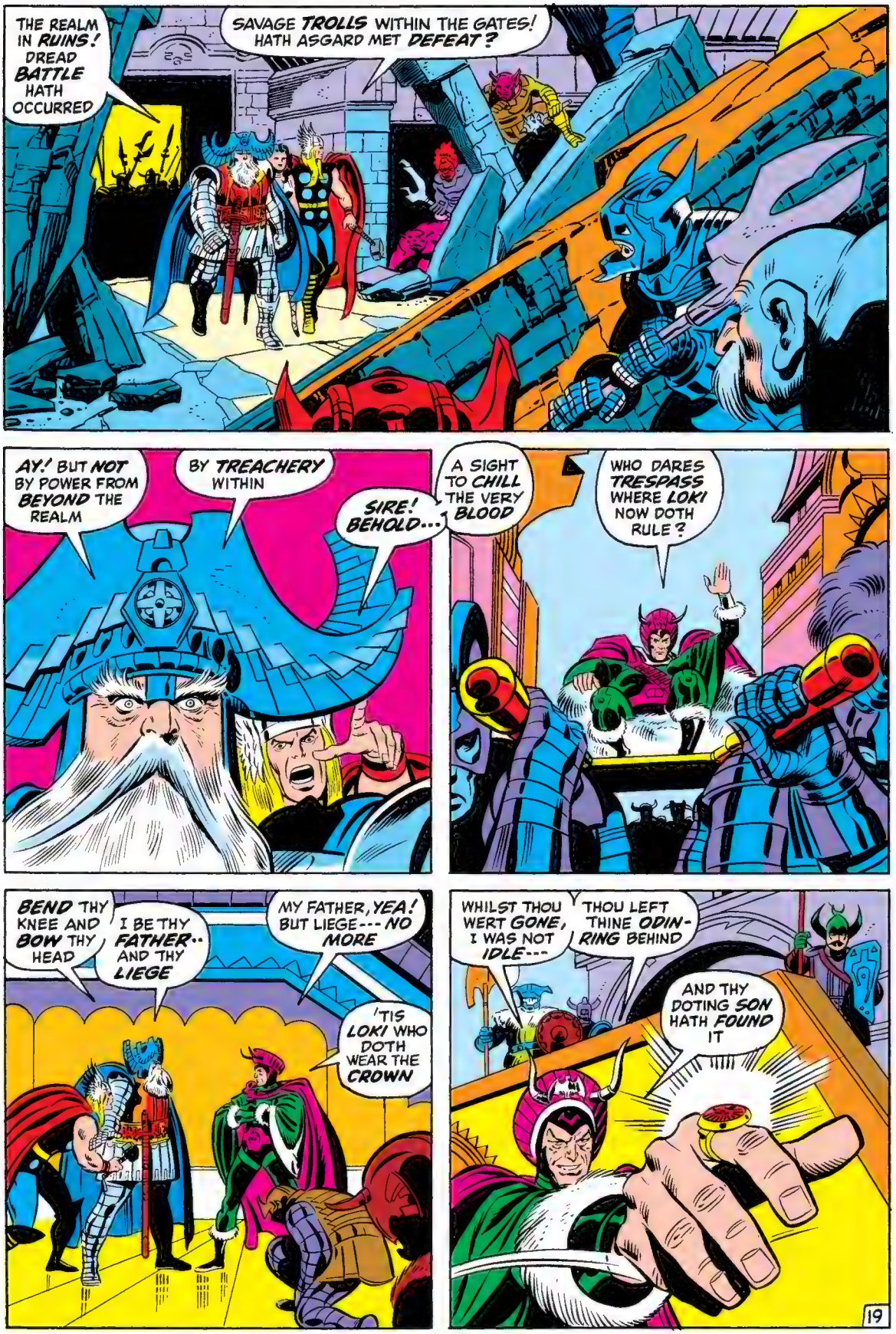

NOW, BACK WE GO-- TO ASGARD!


MY FATHER ACTS IN MOST UNCOMMON HASTE
HIS MEIN IS TROUBLED--HIS VISAGE GRIM
NOW STAND WE 'PON THE RAINBOW BRIDGE
BUT, WHERE BE HEIMDALL-- OF THE GATES?

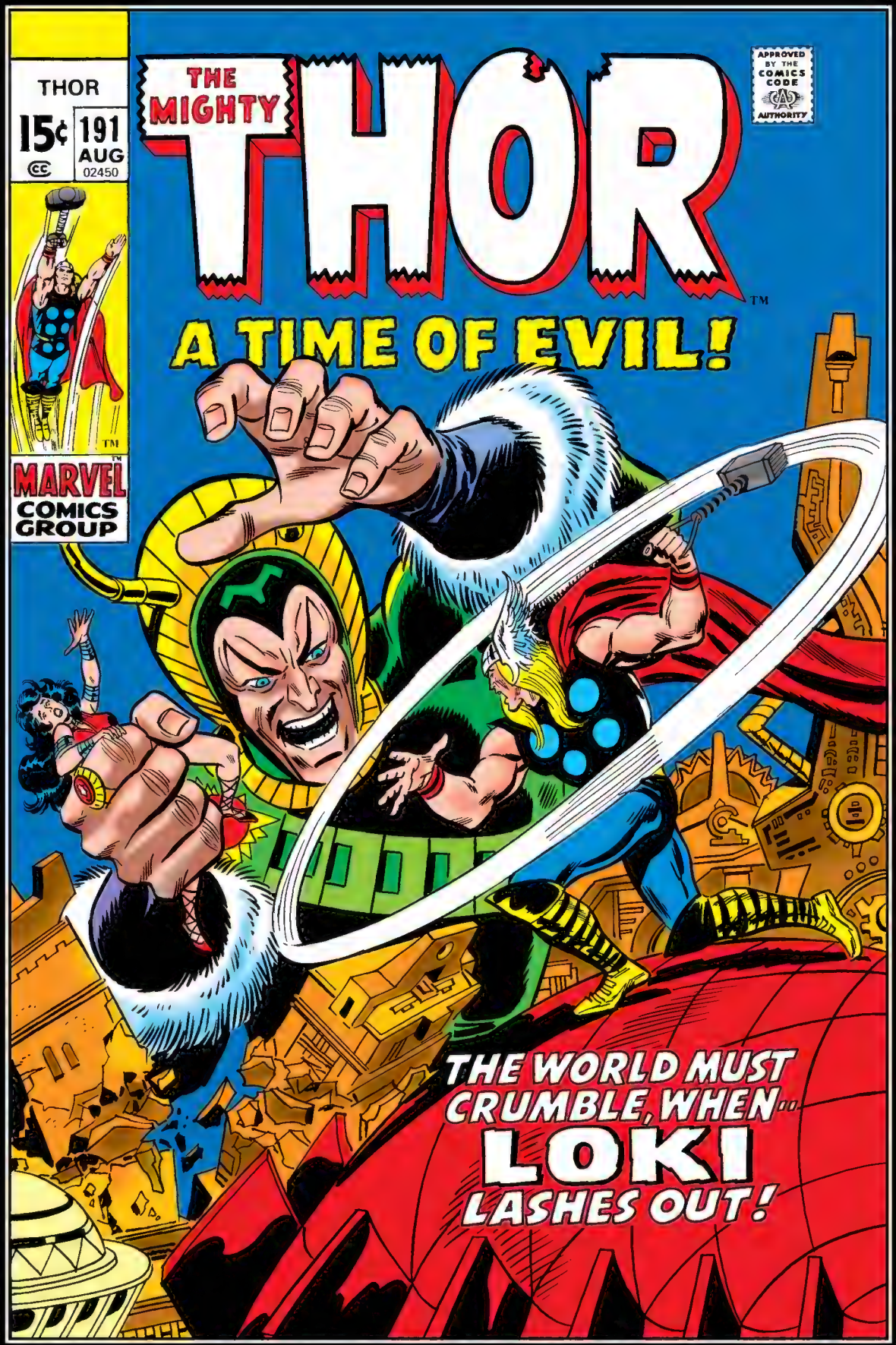

HEIMDALL IS GONE! AS YE SHALL BE, ASGARDIAN
THE STORM GIANTS NOW GUARD BIFROST
SO, LET ODIN FALL

NOT WHILST MIGHTY THOR DOTH LIVE
BWOMM G!


WHAT MADNESS HATH BEFALLEN? IF HEIMDALL BE NOT HERE---
'TIS MUCH AMISS, AS WE SHALL SEE


THE REALM IN RUINS! DREAD BATTLE HATH OCCURRED
SAVAGE TROLLS WITHIN THE GATES! HATH ASGARD MET DEFEAT?
AY! BUT NOT BY POWER FROM BEYOND THE REALM
BY TREACHERY WITHIN
SIRE! BEHOLD...
A SIGHT TO CHILL THE VERY BLOOD
WHO DARES TRESPASS WHERE LOKI NOW DOTH RULE?
BEND THY KNEE AND BOW THY HEAD
I BE THY FATHER.. AND THY LIEGE
MY FATHER, YEA! BUT LIEGE--- NO MORE
'TIS LOKI WHO DOTH WEAR THE CROWN
WHILST THOU WERT GONE, I WAS NOT IDLE---
THOU LEFT THINE ODIN-RING BEHIND
AND THY DOTING SON HATH FOUND IT
19

THOU KNOWEST WELL, THE RING SPELLS POWER ABSOLUTE
NOT EVEN THEE MAY CHALLENGE IT
I AM SERVED BY TROLLS, AND NORNS, AND GIANTS --AND BY BALDER, WHO HATH RENOUNCED THEE
--WHILE HEIMDALL, HOGUN, FANDRAL AND THE REST--- I HAVE SENT TO EXILE
I'LL HEAR NO MORE! MY HAMMER ACHES FOR VENGEANCE
NAY, STAY THY HAND
THE PRIZE IS HIS-- AND WE MUST YIELD
NO MATTER HOW IT GALLS THE BLOOD
FOR, HIM WHO WEARS THE ODIN-RING--
--LET NO MAN TELL HIM NAY
BE SILENT, ALL! I NOW PROCLAIM THE REIGN OF LOKI HATH BEGUN
I DECREE AN END TO PITY, CHARITY, AND PEACE
THE STRONG MUST STOMP UPON THE WEAK
AND LOKI IS THE POWER
THUS, WORLDS SHALL FALL BENEATH MY HAND
AND FIRST SHALL BE-- THE PLANET EARTH!
NEXT: A TIME OF EVIL!


THOR
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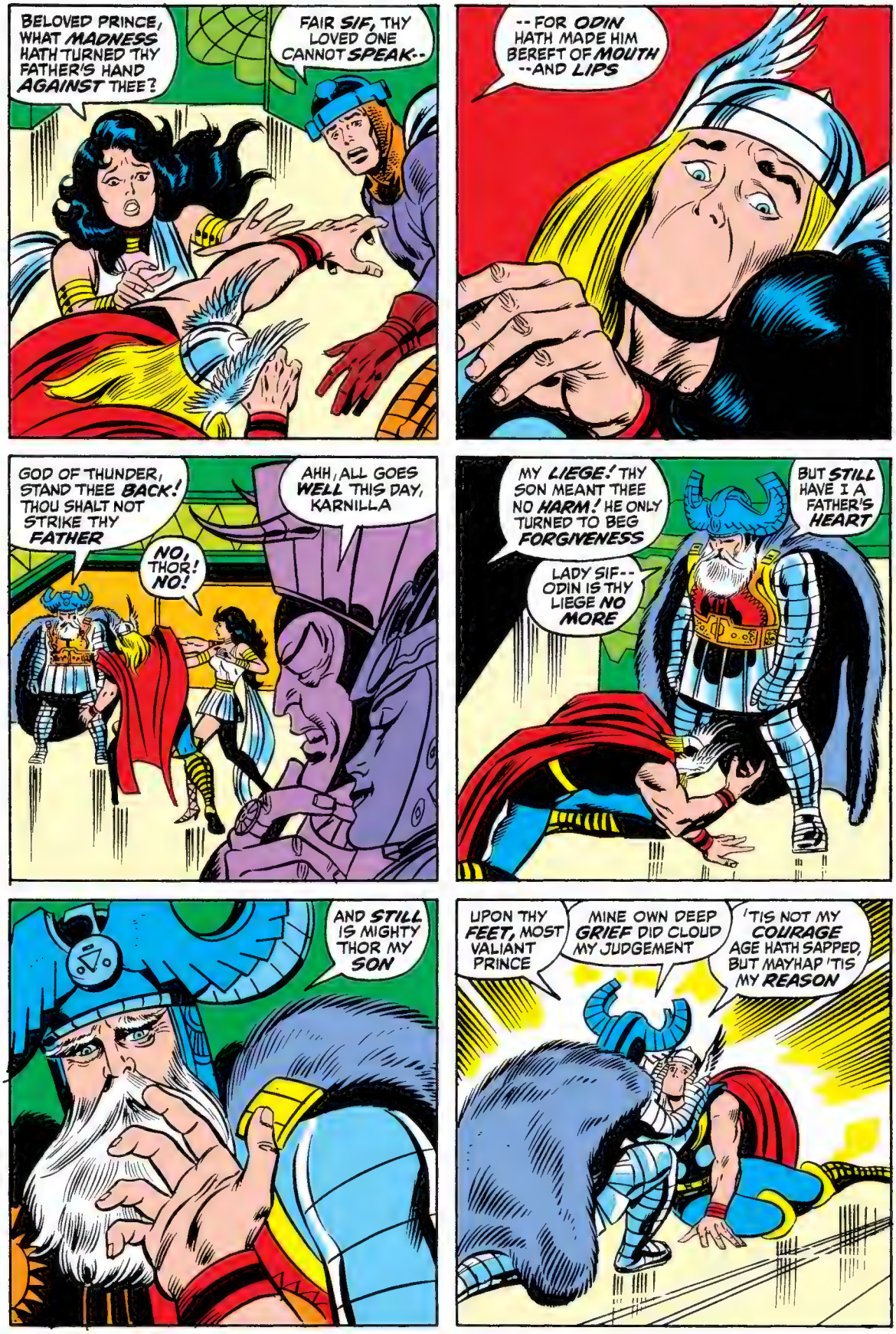
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A TIME OF EVIL!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE WORLD MUST CRUMBLE, WHEN...
LOKI
LASHES OUT!

# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

A TIME OF EVIL!
THE ODIN-RING IS MINE--THEREFORE LOKI NOW RULES ASGARD
LOKI DOTH ORDER ODIN TO SLEEP THE ODIN-SLEEP
THOU WHO WERT KING--ARE KING NO MORE! SO, TO THEE I SAY--GET THEE TO THY CHAMBER
FATHER--NO! THOU STILL ART LIEGE
I SAY THEE NAY, MY SON
WAS IT NOT I WHO MADE THE LAW? THEN 'TIS I WHO MUST ABIDE
STORY BY STAN LEE
ART BY JOHN BUSCEMA
EMBELLISHMENT BY JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING BY SAM ROSEN
SO BE IT!
686

BUT LOKI GAINED THY RING BY TRICKERY!* SHALL EVIL BE THUS REWARDED?
GRANT ME LEAVE TO SMITE HIM
GOD OF THUNDER, SAY NO MORE! THOU HAST HEARD THE WILL OF LOKI
*AS WE SAW LAST ISSUE! YEA, VERILY! --STAN
FATHER, NAY! THINE AGE HATH SAPPED THY COURAGE
THOR WILL FIGHT! AND THOR WILL DIE --ERE THOR WILL YIELD TO LOKI
WHAT?!! THOU SPEAKEST SO TO ODIN?
LOKI TOO IS ODIN'S SON
MY LAW DOTH HOLD FOR ALL
WHILST LOKI WEARS MINE ODIN-RING -- LET NO MAN SAY HE SHALL NOT RULE
AND NE'ER AGAIN LET MINE EARS HEAR THAT ODIN HATH LOST HIS COURAGE


BELOVED PRINCE, WHAT MADNESS HATH TURNED THY FATHER'S HAND AGAINST THEE?
FAIR SIF, THY LOVED ONE CANNOT SPEAK--
-- FOR ODIN HATH MADE HIM BEREFT OF MOUTH --AND LIPS
GOD OF THUNDER, STAND THEE BACK! THOU SHALT NOT STRIKE THY FATHER
NO, THOR! NO!
AHH, ALL GOES WELL THIS DAY, KARNILLA
MY LIEGE! THY SON MEANT THEE NO HARM! HE ONLY TURNED TO BEG FORGIVENESS
LADY SIF-- ODIN IS THY LIEGE NO MORE
BUT STILL HAVE I A FATHER'S HEART
AND STILL IS MIGHTY THOR MY SON
UPON THY FEET, MOST VALIANT PRINCE
MINE OWN DEEP GRIEF DID CLOUD MY JUDGEMENT
'TIS NOT MY COURAGE AGE HATH SAPPED, BUT MAYHAP 'TIS MY REASON

THOU DIDST BUT TRY TO AID THY FATHER
AND SO, I LIFT THY PUNISHMENT
FOR, THOUGH THY WORDS WERE HARSH-- THINE HEART DIDST HOLD NO MALICE
AND NOW, TO SLEEP THE ODIN-SLEEP GO I
THEN, SIRE--- FAREWELL! THY SON SHALL STAND ALONE
WHAT IS TO BE, SHALL BE! THE STAGE IS SET-- THE PLAYERS NIGH! AND TIME SHALL RUN ITS COURSE
NOT SO, MY LORD! SIF STANDS AS WELL
THEY THINK TO DEFY LOKI?
BUT THOU HAST THE POWER! THE ODIN-RING IS THINE
'TIS WELL, KARNILLA! MUCH SPORT OF THIS SHALL LOKI MAKE
EVEN NOW MY CRAFTY BRAIN DOTH FORMULATE A PLAN
THE THUNDER GOD SHALL FACE A FOE-- AS NONE HAVE FACED BEFORE
PRINCE OF EVIL, HEAR MY WORDS
IF THE ODIN-RING DOTH GIVE THEE POWER---
NO LONGER SHALT THOU WEAR IT

SON OF ODIN-- HOLD! NONE MAY CHALLENGE HIM WHO WEARS THE RING
BUT 'TIS NOT HIS-- BY DEED OR GIFT---
WHAT HATH BEEN SEIZED, MUST BE RETRIEVED! AND THE THUNDER GOD SHALL DO IT
CLOSER, BROTHER! GRASP MY HAND
NOW SHALL LOKI SHOW THEE-- HOW HOPELESS IS THY PLIGHT
THINE HAND IS LOCKED! IT CANNOT MOVE! THE RING DOTH HOLD IT HELPLESS
BUT, WITH A THOUGHT, MY OWN CAN GROW-- TO ANY SIZE I WILL IT
WHILST ON MY FINGER SITS THE RING-- 'TIS I WHO AM THE POWER

BALDER, QUICK! GRASP THEE THY SWORD
NOT EVEN THOR CAN LONG SURVIVE SUCH MERCILESS ATTACK
ALAS, MY LADY-- BALDER MAY NOT ACT
SEEKING TO SAVE THE THUNDER GOD, WHEN HELA ON EARTH DIDST MENACE HIM, I PLEDGED TO SERVE KARNILLA*
AND NOW, SINCE SHE BE LOKI'S ALLY, I MAY NOT BREAK MY PLEDGE
*JUST A FEW ISSUES BACK! SO WAS IT! --- S.
IF HONOR STAYS THY HAND, THEN BALDER, STAND ASIDE
NO SUCH PLEDGE HATH SIF E'ER MADE
ACCURSED BROTHER! LONG HAVE I DREAMED OF THIS MOMENT OF TRIUMPH
VILLAIN! THOU SHALT DREAM NO MORE
NOT WHILST SIF DOTH LIVE AND BREATHE
THEN SIF SHALL DIE-- IF LOKI WISH IT
YET, THOU ART TOO FAIR FOR SUCH A FATE --- FOR I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR THEE
BEFORE MY EYES-- THY BODY GROWS!
AY! THE BETTER TO SEIZE THEE, BEAUTEOUS ONE

NOW, AS BALDER PLEDGED LOYALTY TO THE MYSTIC KARNILLA -- WILT THOU SWEAR FEALTY TO NONE BUT LOKI?
NEVER! NOT THOUGH I DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS
IN THY CASE, ONE WILL SURE SUFFICE
SUDDENLY, A SAVAGE STORM BREAKS FORTH -- AND A LIGHTNING-BOLT STRIKES OUT ---
TAKE HEART, MY LADY! THOR IS WITH THEE STILL
THE THUNDER GOD DOTH RULE THE STORM --
AND I BE GOD OF THUNDER
AGAIN AND AGAIN THE LIGHTNING STRIKES, UNTIL THE GIANT'S HAND FLIES OPEN --
-- AND HIS CAPTIVE IS RELEASED
FEAR NOT, FAIR SIF! THY PRINCE SHALL CATCH THEE
SO! THOU HAST TO NORMAL SIZE RETURNED
THEN WE SHALL BATTLE MAN TO MAN.
THOU ART A FOOL, AS EVER, THOR
THINKEST THOU LOKI WILL BATTLE FAIR?
BE IT FAIR OR FOUL, IT MATTERS NOT
THE THUNDER GOD SHALL BEST THEE

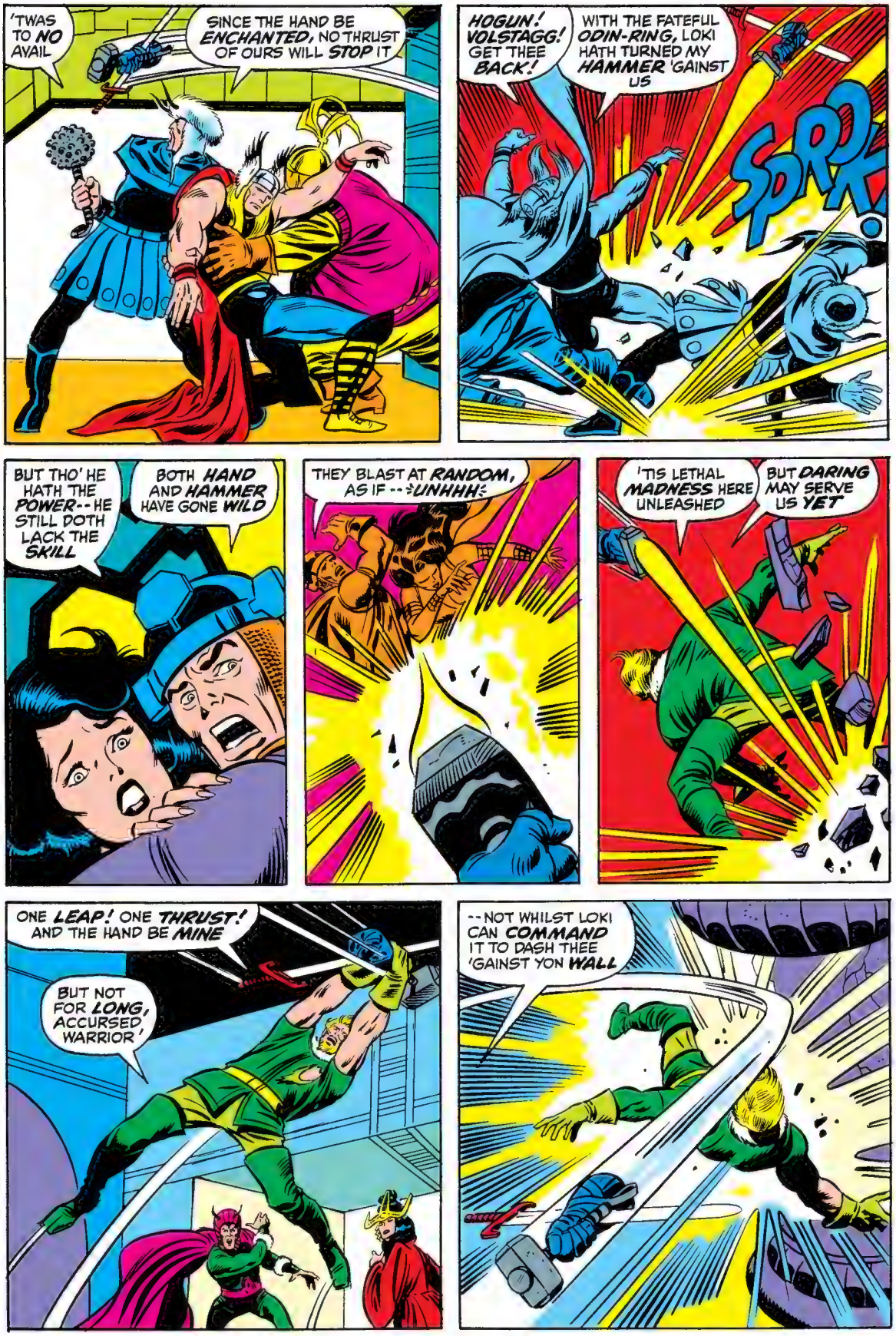
WITHIN YON REGAL PALACE, STILL DOTH RAGE THE BATTLE
BUT, TO WHAT AVAIL? ONLY BY HIM WHO WEARS THE RING CAN VICTORY BE WON
AND, 'TIS EVIL LOKI-- THE MERCILESS AND MAD-- WHO WEARS THE JEWEL OF POWER
WHILST ODIN SLEEPS THE ODIN-SLEEP, A WORLD MAY END-- IN CARNAGE
FOOL! THINKEST THOU THY HAMMER TOSSED CAN STRIKE THE LORDLY LOKI?
KSKAK
I SAY THEE YEA
AND I SAY NAY
AND LOKI IS THE VICTOR

BUT, WHY SHOULD I DO BATTLE-- WHEN I DO WEAR THE RING?
MY PERSON IS TOO SACRED TO SULLY IT IN COMBAT
THUS, I SHALL WATCH, WHILST THOR DOTH FIGHT A DIFFERENT FOE---
-- WHICH ONLY LOKI CAN PROVIDE
--AWAY, MY LADY! THIS BE NO PLACE FOR THEE
THOR MUST FIGHT AS NE'ER BEFORE--- AND HE NEEDETH ROOM FOR BATTLE
THROK
ARHHH
BTONNG

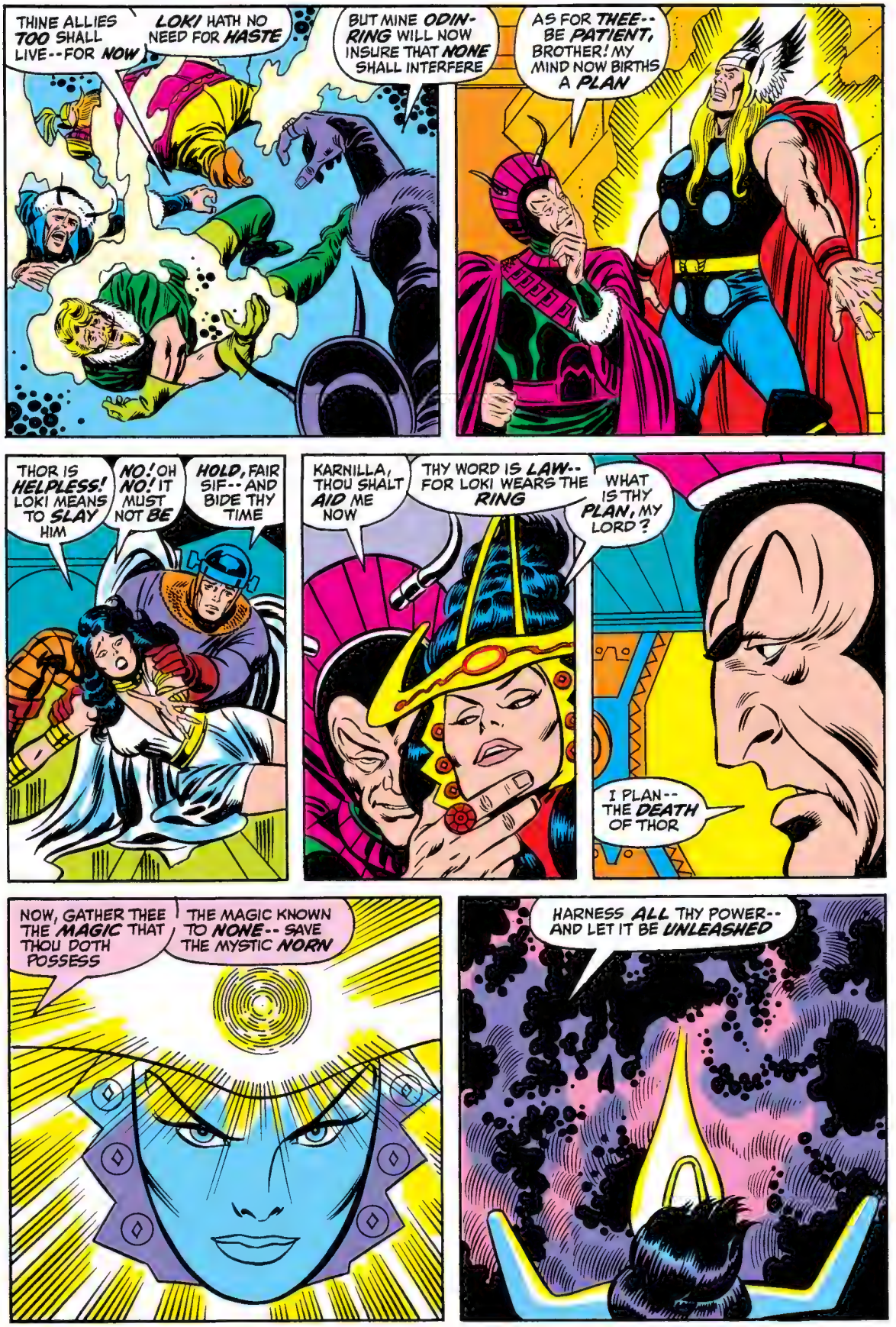
MY HAMMER HATH BEEN SEIZED
THDOOM!
IN TRUTH, NO MAN'S SKILL OR SPEED CAN BE A MATCH FOR---
--MYSTIC ENCHANTMENT-- UNHH!
KARNILLA! I CAN BEAR NO MORE
I MUST AID THE THUNDER GOD
HOW SAY THEE, LOKI?
I PRAY THEE-- RELEASE ME FROM MY PLEDGE
THE PLEDGE MUST STAND
LOKI! THOUGH THY HEART BE EVIL-- STILL ART THOU HIS BROTHER
I BEG THEE, CEASE THY MAGIC
AY, CEASE IT I WILL-- WHEN THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH BEEN CRUSHED
LOKI IS LIEGE! AND LOKI IS LORD! AND MINE IS THE WILL--- ALONE
BUT HOLD! LOKI CAN BE MERCIFUL
SINCE HE IS MY BROTHER, I SHALL SEND THOR AID
IF--THOU SPEAKEST THE TRUTH---
LOKI DOTH NOT LIE

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A FAR, FAR DISTANT WORLD---
--A WORLD OF SAVAGERY, AND ENDLESS STRIFE---
FAMILIAR FORMS NOW GREET OUR STARTLED EYES---
HOGUN-- HO!
BEHIND THEE, FANDRAL!
THEY CANNOT STILL MY BLADE
BRAVE VOLSTAGG'S SWORD IS LOST, ALAS! YET--
EACH TIME I FALL--- ANOTHER FOE IS DULY CRUSHED
THOUGH LOKI SENT US HERE TO DIE---
WE LIVE! WE LIVE!
IF OUR EXILE LASTS A THOUSAND YEARS--
FOR A THOUSAND YEARS WE'LL FIGHT
BUT STAY YE NOW! WHAT WONDERMENT ASSAILS MINE EYES?
OUR FOES DO FADE-- AND SLOWLY VANISH-- EVEN AS WE WATCH
'TWAS THE DOING OF LOKI
I NOW HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR THEE

SO, BACK TO ASGARD SHALL YE GO
--TO AID THY HAPLESS PRINCE
AND I SHALL WATCH AS YOU-- AND HE--ARE EACH ONE FELLED IN BATTLE
THE EVIL ONE HATH SPAKE THE TRUTH! THE MIGHTY THOR IS SORELY PRESSED
THEN TO HIS SIDE WE FLY
HOGUN! STAND THEE BACK
FANDRALL'S SKILL SHALL SAVE THE DAY--
FOR, THERE BE NAUGHT TO MATCH IT


'TWAS TO NO AVAIL
SINCE THE HAND BE ENCHANTED, NO THRUST OF OURS WILL STOP IT
HOGUN! VOLSTAGG! GET THEE BACK!
WITH THE FATEFUL ODIN-RING, LOKI HATH TURNED MY HAMMER 'GAINST US
SPRK!
BUT THO' HE HATH THE POWER--HE STILL DOTH LACK THE SKILL
BOTH HAND AND HAMMER HAVE GONE WILD
THEY BLAST AT RANDOM, AS IF --UNHHH!
'TIS LETHAL MADNESS HERE UNLEASHED
BUT DARING MAY SERVE US YET
ONE LEAP! ONE THRUST! AND THE HAND BE MINE
BUT NOT FOR LONG, ACCURSED WARRIOR!
--NOT WHILST LOKI CAN COMMAND IT TO DASH THEE 'GAINST YON WALL

PRINCE OF EVIL, THY METHOD IS TOO CRUDE
THY WORDS ARE TRUE, KARNILLA! LOKI WEARIES OF THIS SPORT
SURELY THOU CANST DEVISE A FATE MORE FITTING FOR THY FOES
SO, BY THE POWER OF MY RING---
--THE MYSTIC HAND SHALL CRUMBLE
THE ONSLAUGHT HATH ENDED
OH WOE! OH WOE! NONE CAN STAND AGAINST THE ODIN-RING
LOKI DOTH BUT TOY WITH VICTIMS SUCH AS WE
THEN LET US SHOW HOW VICTIMS CAN FIGHT BACK
MJOLNIR SHALL YET BE MINE
NOT WHILST THE ODIN-RING IS MINE
NOW FLY THEE BACK, O HELPLESS THOR
MY RING SHALL PIN THEE 'GAINST THE WALL---
TILL I BE READY TO SEAL THY FATE
THUMMM!


THINE ALLIES TOO SHALL LIVE--FOR NOW
LOKI HATH NO NEED FOR HASTE
BUT MINE ODIN-RING WILL NOW INSURE THAT NONE SHALL INTERFERE
AS FOR THEE-- BE PATIENT, BROTHER! MY MIND NOW BIRTHS A PLAN
THOR IS HELPLESS! LOKI MEANS TO SLAY HIM
NO! OH NO! IT MUST NOT BE
HOLD, FAIR SIF-- AND BIDE THY TIME
KARNILLA, THOU SHALT AID ME NOW
THY WORD IS LAW-- FOR LOKI WEARS THE RING
WHAT IS THY PLAN, MY LORD?
I PLAN-- THE DEATH OF THOR
NOW, GATHER THEE THE MAGIC THAT THOU DOTH POSSESS
THE MAGIC KNOWN TO NONE-- SAVE THE MYSTIC NORN
HARNESS ALL THY POWER-- AND LET IT BE UNLEASHED

I KNOW THY LOVE FOR BALDER! IT DOTH PLEASE ME TO THINK HOW HE WILL SUFFER, KNOWING THAT THOU HAVE HELPED SLAY THOR
THUS, LOKI WREAKS REVENGE 'PON ALL
NOW, WITH THY SPELL, I BID THEE MOLD A FORM
FOR, LOKI WOULD CREATE--A MAN
AND HE SHALL HAVE POWER--SUCH AS NONE HAVE EVER KNOWN
POWER ENOW TO CRUSH THE LIFE FROM THOR
STRONG LET HIM STAND--AND EVER PROUD
FOR HE SHALL SERVE THE LORDLY LOKI
FASTER, NORN QUEEN, FASTER! MINE EYES DO ACHE TO VIEW WHAT THOU HATH WROUGHT

'TIS DONE, MY LORD! I HAVE FASHIONED THEE A MAN, WITH LIMBS FAR STRONGER THAN THE STRONGEST STEEL
BUT, THOUGH EACH FIBRE AND SINEW HAVE POWER BEYOND COMPARE-- STILL STANDS HE MOTION-LESS---
FOR HE LACKS THE GIFT OF LIFE
BUT NOT FOR LONG, KARNILLA
THINE HANDIWORK HATH DONE THEE PROUD-- AND NOW, 'TIS LOKI'S TURN
SINCE GODS AND MEN ALIKE ARE IMPRESSED BY NAMES DRAMATIC, ALL SHALL CALL THEE DUROK-- THE DEMOLISHER
FOR SUCH SHALL BE THY TASK
AND NOW, THE MYSTIC ODIN-RING SHALL CALL THEE FORTH -- TO LIFE
BUT NEITHER HEART NOR SOUL I GIVE-- AND THOU SHALT FEEL NO MERCY

LOKI! THOU HAST MADE A MONSTER! THINK THE CARNAGE HE WILL CAUSE
INDEED, DOOMED BROTHER! SUCH IS MY PURPOSE
AND HIS FIRST VICTIM SHALL BE THEE
THE SPELL IS ENDED! I AM FREE ONCE MORE
NOW, DUROK SHALL FACE THE HAMMER OF THOR
BUKOOM!
THOU DOST STRIKE--AND STILL HE STANDS
IN THE DEMOLISHER, THOU HAST MET THY MATCH
BUT NOW, LOKI HATH OTHER PLANS FOR HIM
THE DEMOLISHER HATH VANISHED
BUT WHITHER HATH HE GONE-- AND WHY?
WHERE HAST THOU SENT HIM, EVIL ONE?
WHERE HE SHALL DO THE GREATEST HARM...

DUROK HATH GONE TO EARTH
AND, ONCE THERE, HE SHALL ATTACK AND SLAY EVERYTHING THAT LIVES
NAY! IT CANNOT BE! IT MUST NOT BE
MANKIND IS MINE TO SAFEGUARD
THEN HIE THEE EARTHWARD, BROTHER -- AND TEND THEE TO THY DUTY
IF EARTH BE THREATENED, THOR MUST FLY
THE FOOL HATH SNAPPED AT LOKI'S BAIT
THOU DIDST CREATE THE DEMOLISHER FOR ONLY ONE TRUE PURPOSE --
'TIS HE WHO SHALL KILL THE THUNDER GOD
I SAY THEE YEA!
NOTHING CAN SAVE MY BROTHER NOW! HIS DOOM IS TRULY SEALED
DUROK WAS BORN FOR NAUGHT BUT DEATH -- AND THOR SHALL NE'ER RETURN
NEXT: HELL ON EARTH!

THOR
192
SEPT
02450
STILL
15¢
CC
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
AND THERE SHALL COME A DAY...
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
...THE DAY OF THE
THE DEMOLISHER!

# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

# CONFLAGRATION!

THE EVIL **LOKI** IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF THE MAJESTIC, ALL-POWERFUL **ODIN-RING!** HENCE, IT IS **LOKI** WHO IS **KING OF ASGARD**--AND, HE WHO RULES THE GOLDEN REALM, RULES **ALL!** BY THE POWER OF **MAGIC**, LOKI HAS CREATED THE MONSTROUS **DUROK, THE DEMOLISHER**, SENDING HIM TO **EARTH** TO CRUSH MANKIND...FOR, THE CRAFTY PRINCE OF EVIL KNEW THAT **THOR** WOULD BE SURE TO **FOLLOW**--

THE **THUNDER GOD** HATH GONE TO **EARTH**-- TO STOP THE DREADED **DUROK**

BUT **DUROK** IS **DEATH INCARNATE!** NOT EVEN MIGHTY **THOR** CAN FELL HIM!

IF MY BELOVED SHOULD BE **SLAIN**--

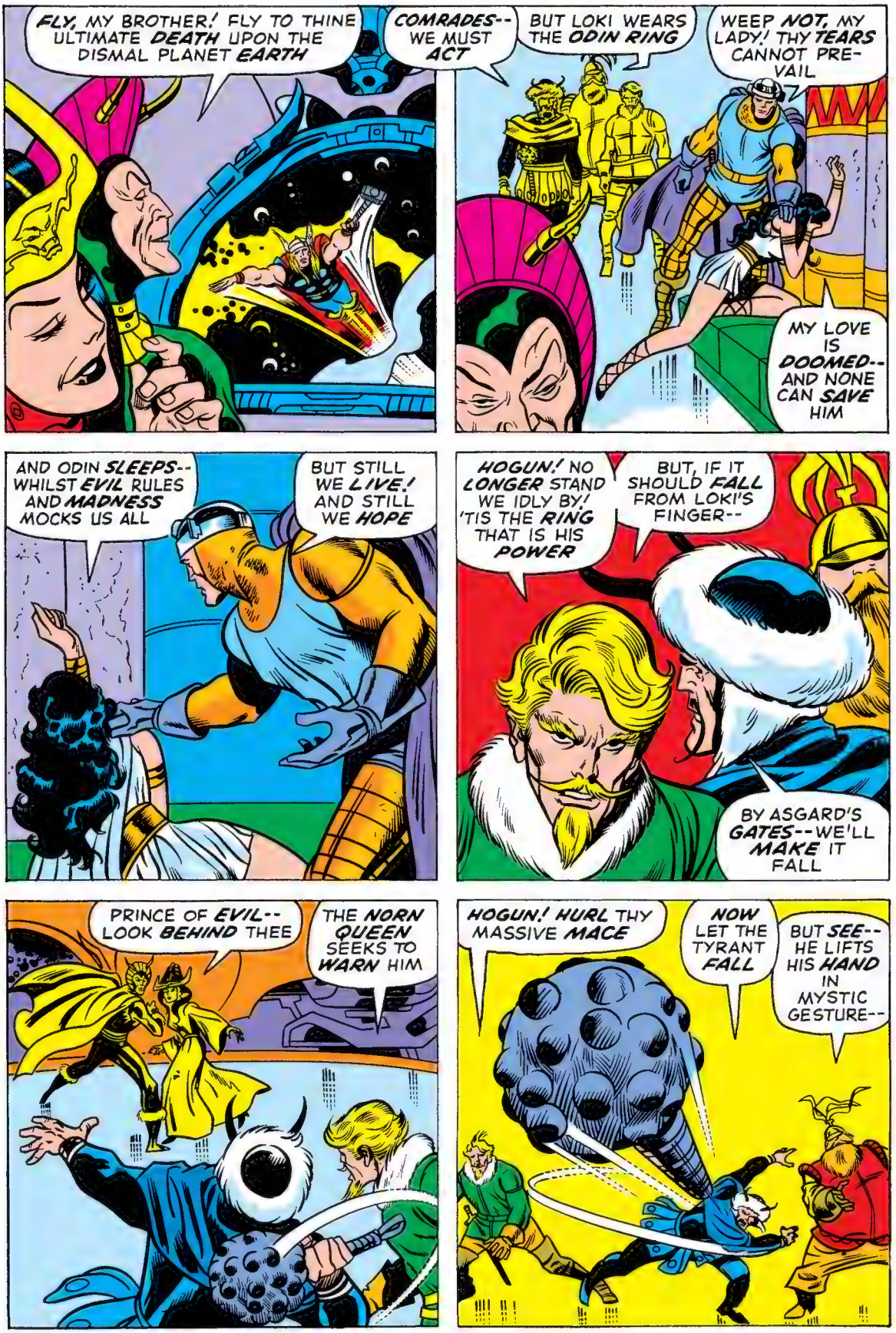
THOR **SHALL** BE SLAIN, MY LADY SIF

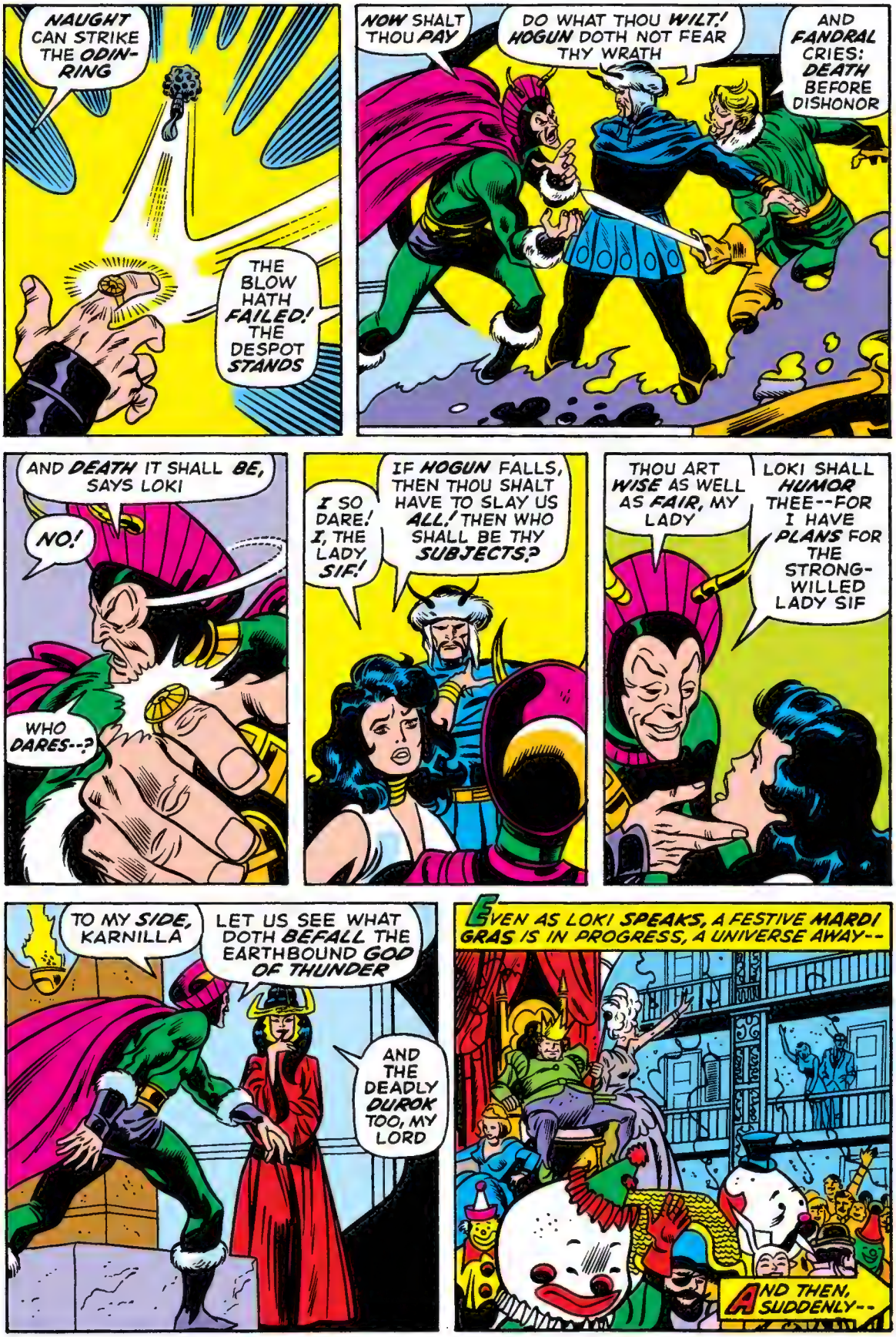
**SUCH** IS THE POWER OF **DUROK!** AND SUCH IS THE WILL OF THY SOVEREIGN **LOKI**

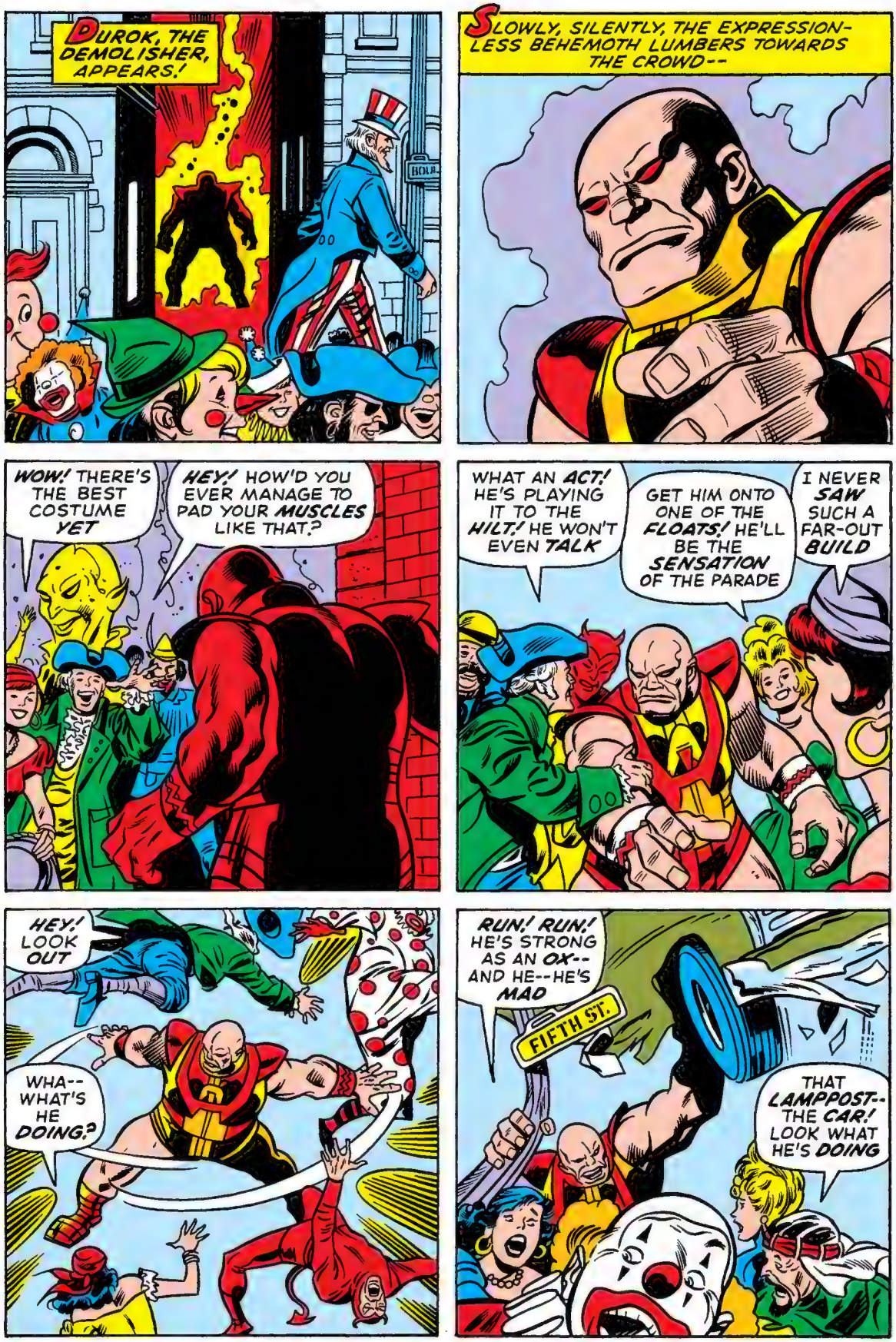
AT **LAST** THOU SHALT REALIZE THY LIFELONG **DREAM**, MY LIEGE! AT LAST THE MIGHTY THOR IS **DOOMED**

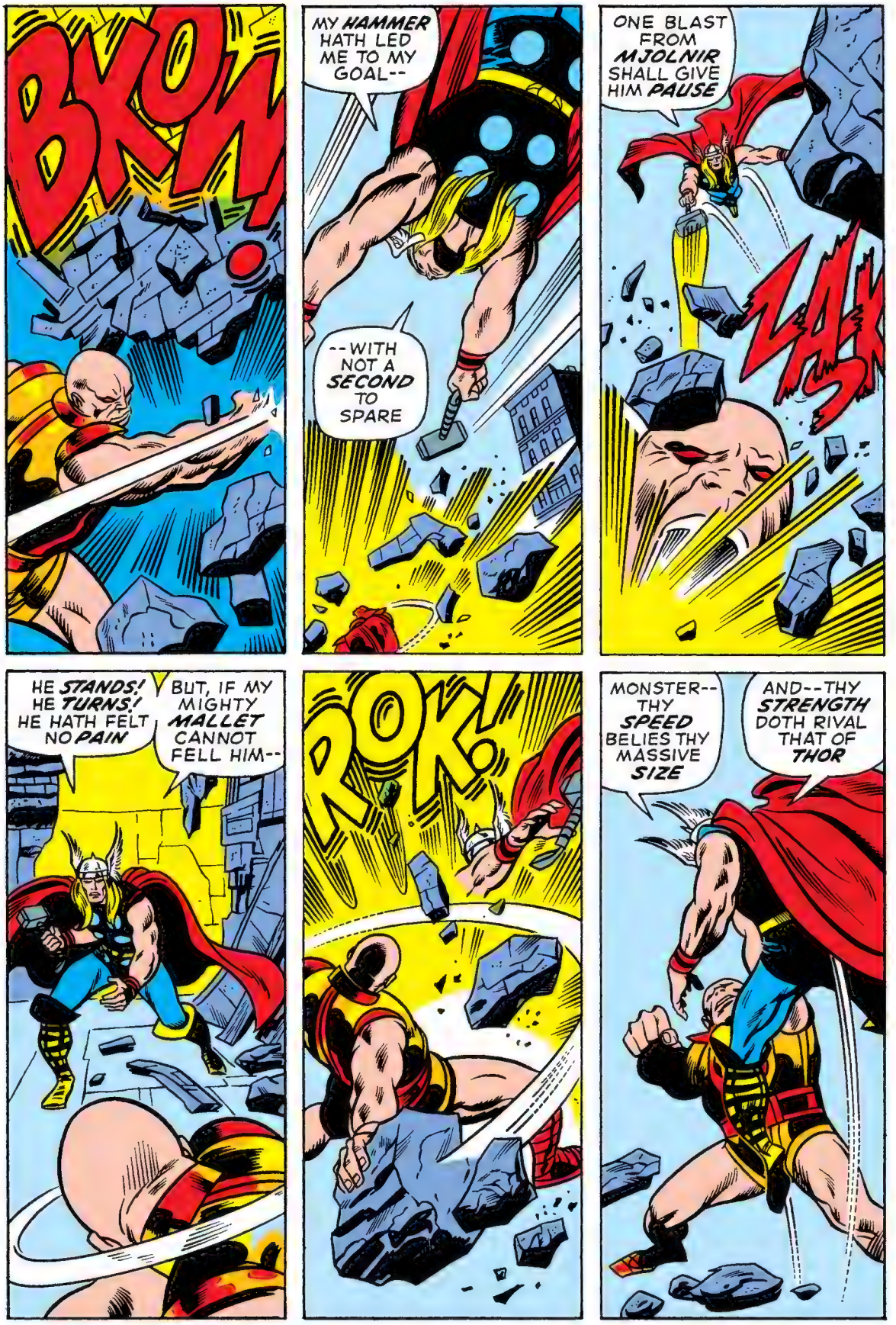
STORY BY:
STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATION BY:
JOHN BUSCEMA
EMBELLISHMENT BY:
SAM GRAINGER
LETTERING BY:
ARTIE SIMEK
COSTUMES BY:
FORBUSH'S FUNKY FASHION FACTORY

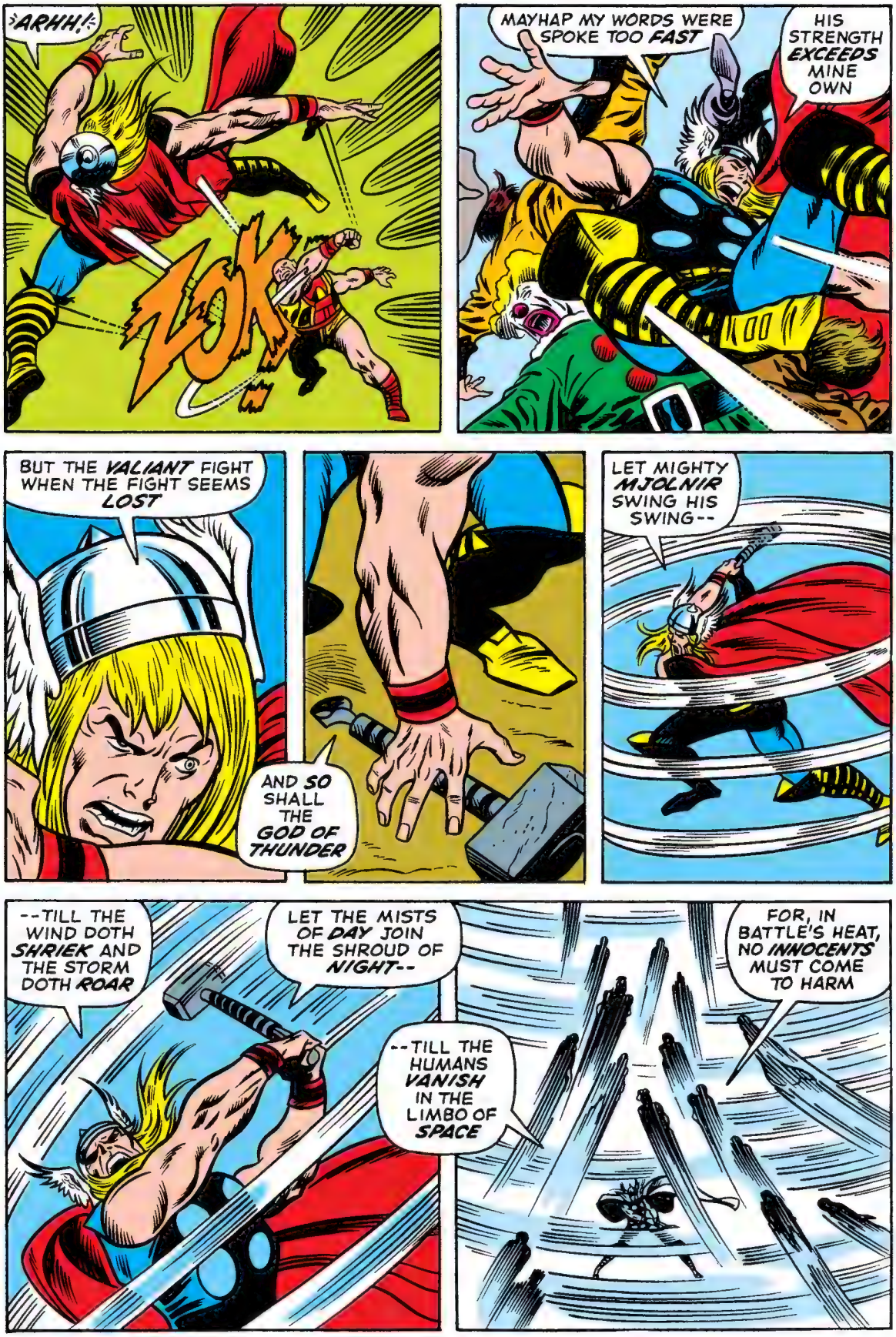
695


FLY, MY BROTHER! FLY TO THINE ULTIMATE DEATH UPON THE DISMAL PLANET EARTH
COMRADES-- WE MUST ACT
BUT LOKI WEARS THE ODIN RING
WEEP NOT, MY LADY! THY TEARS CANNOT PREVAIL
MY LOVE IS DOOMED-- AND NONE CAN SAVE HIM
AND ODIN SLEEPS-- WHILST EVIL RULES AND MADNESS MOCKS US ALL
BUT STILL WE LIVE! AND STILL WE HOPE
HOGUN! NO LONGER STAND WE IDLY BY! 'TIS THE RING THAT IS HIS POWER
BUT, IF IT SHOULD FALL FROM LOKI'S FINGER--
BY ASGARD'S GATES--WE'LL MAKE IT FALL
PRINCE OF EVIL-- LOOK BEHIND THEE
THE NORN QUEEN SEEKS TO WARN HIM
HOGUN! HURL THY MASSIVE MACE
NOW LET THE TYRANT FALL
BUT SEE-- HE LIFTS HIS HAND IN MYSTIC GESTURE--


NAUGHT CAN STRIKE THE ODIN-RING
THE BLOW HATH FAILED! THE DESPOT STANDS
NOW SHALT THOU PAY
DO WHAT THOU WILT! HOGUN DOTH NOT FEAR THY WRATH
AND FANDRAL CRIES: DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR
AND DEATH IT SHALL BE, SAYS LOKI
NO!
WHO DARES--?
I SO DARE! I, THE LADY SIF!
IF HOGUN FALLS, THEN THOU SHALT HAVE TO SLAY US ALL! THEN WHO SHALL BE THY SUBJECTS?
THOU ART WISE AS WELL AS FAIR, MY LADY
LOKI SHALL HUMOR THEE--FOR I HAVE PLANS FOR THE STRONG-WILLED LADY SIF
TO MY SIDE, KARNILLA
LET US SEE WHAT DOTH BEFALL THE EARTHBOUND GOD OF THUNDER
AND THE DEADLY DUROK TOO, MY LORD
EVEN AS LOKI SPEAKS, A FESTIVE MARDI GRAS IS IN PROGRESS, A UNIVERSE AWAY--
AND THEN, SUDDENLY--

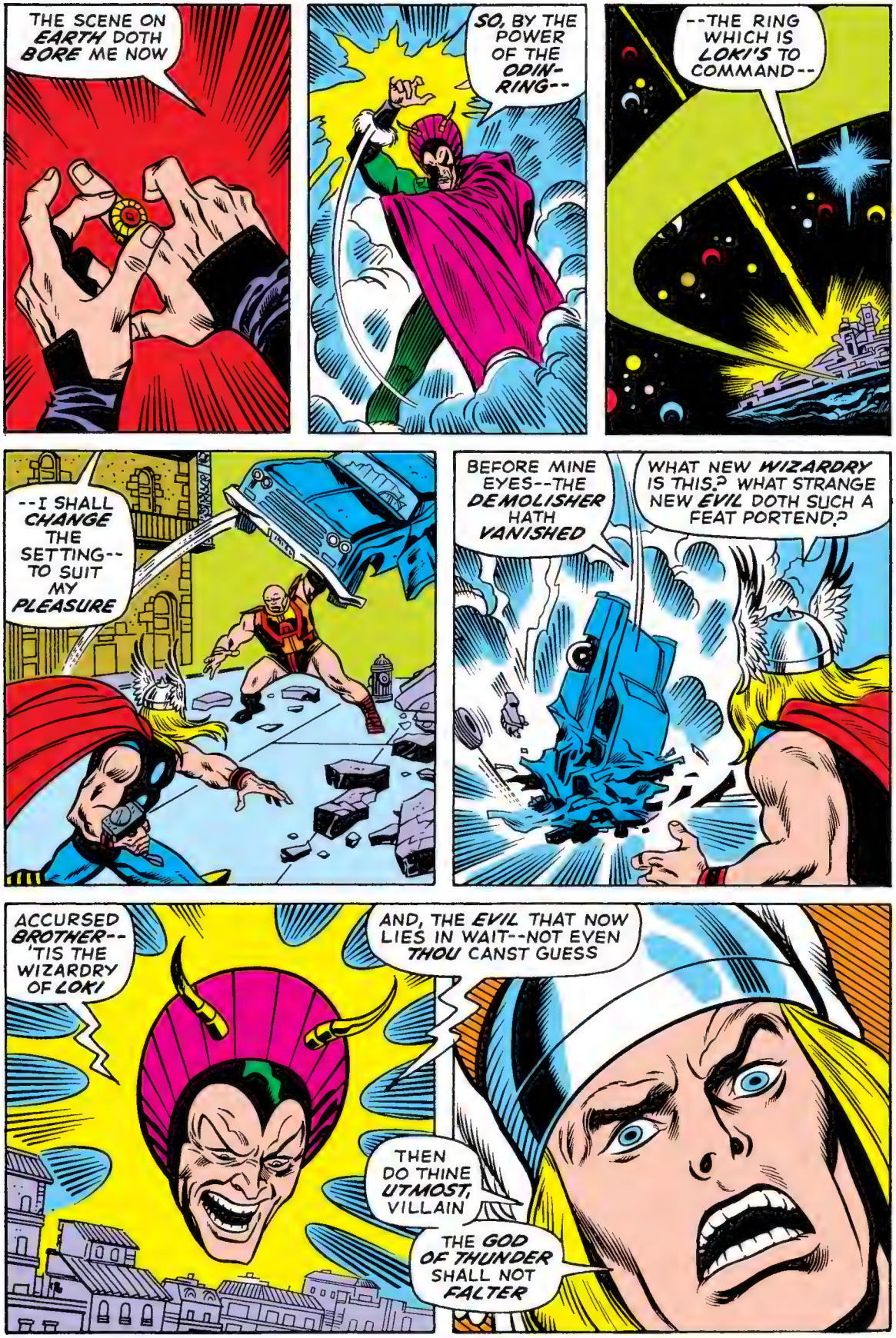

DUROK, THE DEMOLISHER, APPEARS!
SLOWLY, SILENTLY, THE EXPRESSIONLESS BEHEMOTH LUMBERS TOWARDS THE CROWD--
WOW! THERE'S THE BEST COSTUME YET
HEY! HOW'D YOU EVER MANAGE TO PAD YOUR MUSCLES LIKE THAT?
WHAT AN ACT! HE'S PLAYING IT TO THE HILT! HE WON'T EVEN TALK
GET HIM ONTO ONE OF THE FLOATS! HE'LL BE THE SENSATION OF THE PARADE
I NEVER SAW SUCH A FAR-OUT BUILD
HEY! LOOK OUT
WHA-- WHAT'S HE DOING?
RUN! RUN! HE'S STRONG AS AN OX-- AND HE--HE'S MAD
FIFTH ST.
THAT LAMPPOST-- THE CAR! LOOK WHAT HE'S DOING


BKOW!
MY HAMMER HATH LED ME TO MY GOAL--
--WITH NOT A SECOND TO SPARE
ONE BLAST FROM MJOLNIR SHALL GIVE HIM PAUSE
ZAK
HE STANDS! HE TURNS! HE HATH FELT NO PAIN
BUT, IF MY MIGHTY MALLET CANNOT FELL HIM--
ROK!
MONSTER--THY SPEED BELIES THY MASSIVE SIZE
AND--THY STRENGTH DOTH RIVAL THAT OF THOR

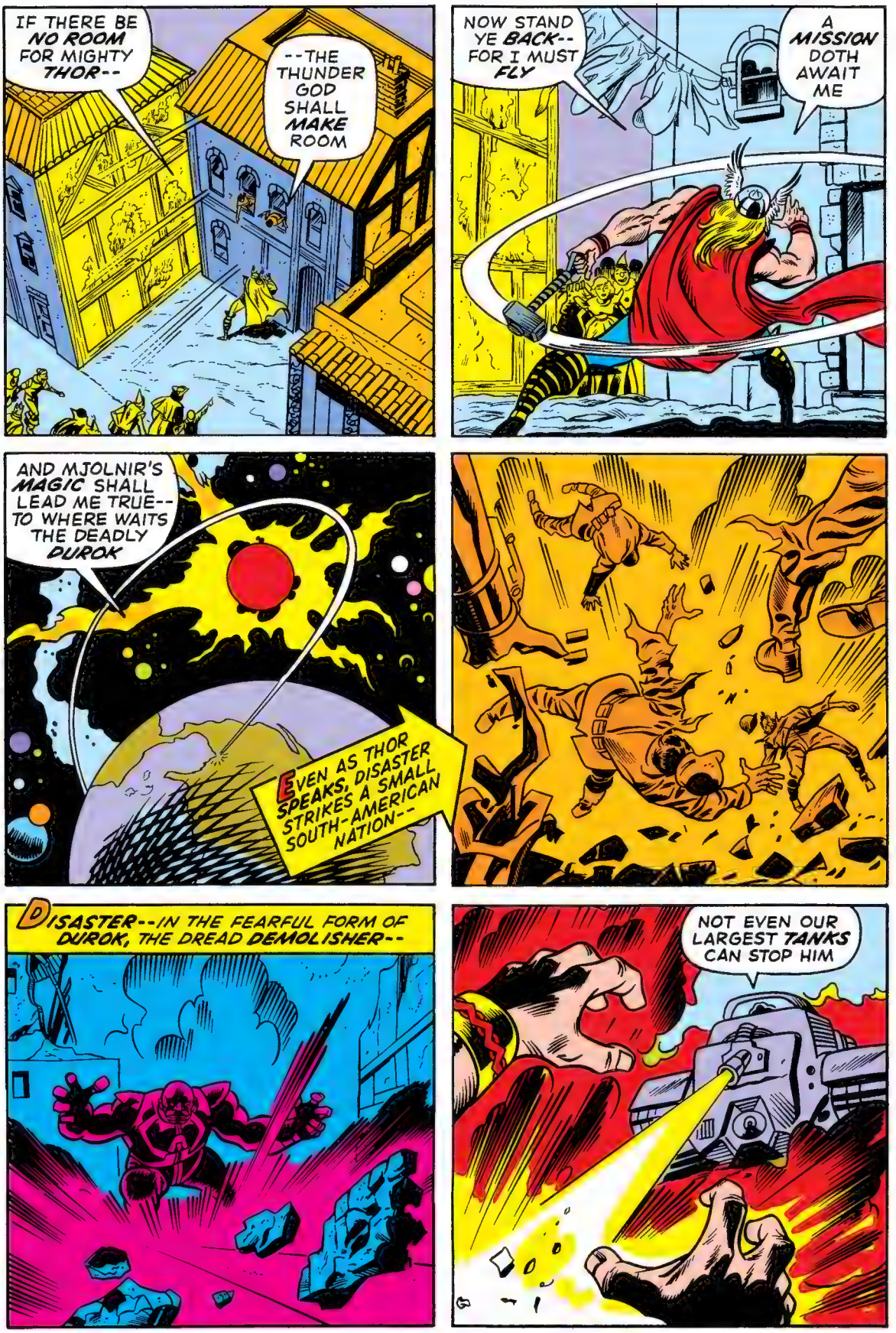

ARHH!
ZOK
MAYHAP MY WORDS WERE SPOKE TOO FAST
HIS STRENGTH EXCEEDS MINE OWN
BUT THE VALIANT FIGHT WHEN THE FIGHT SEEMS LOST
AND SO SHALL THE GOD OF THUNDER
LET MIGHTY MJOLNIR SWING HIS SWING--
--TILL THE WIND DOTH SHRIEK AND THE STORM DOTH ROAR
LET THE MISTS OF DAY JOIN THE SHROUD OF NIGHT--
--TILL THE HUMANS VANISH IN THE LIMBO OF SPACE
FOR, IN BATTLE'S HEAT, NO INNOCENTS MUST COME TO HARM

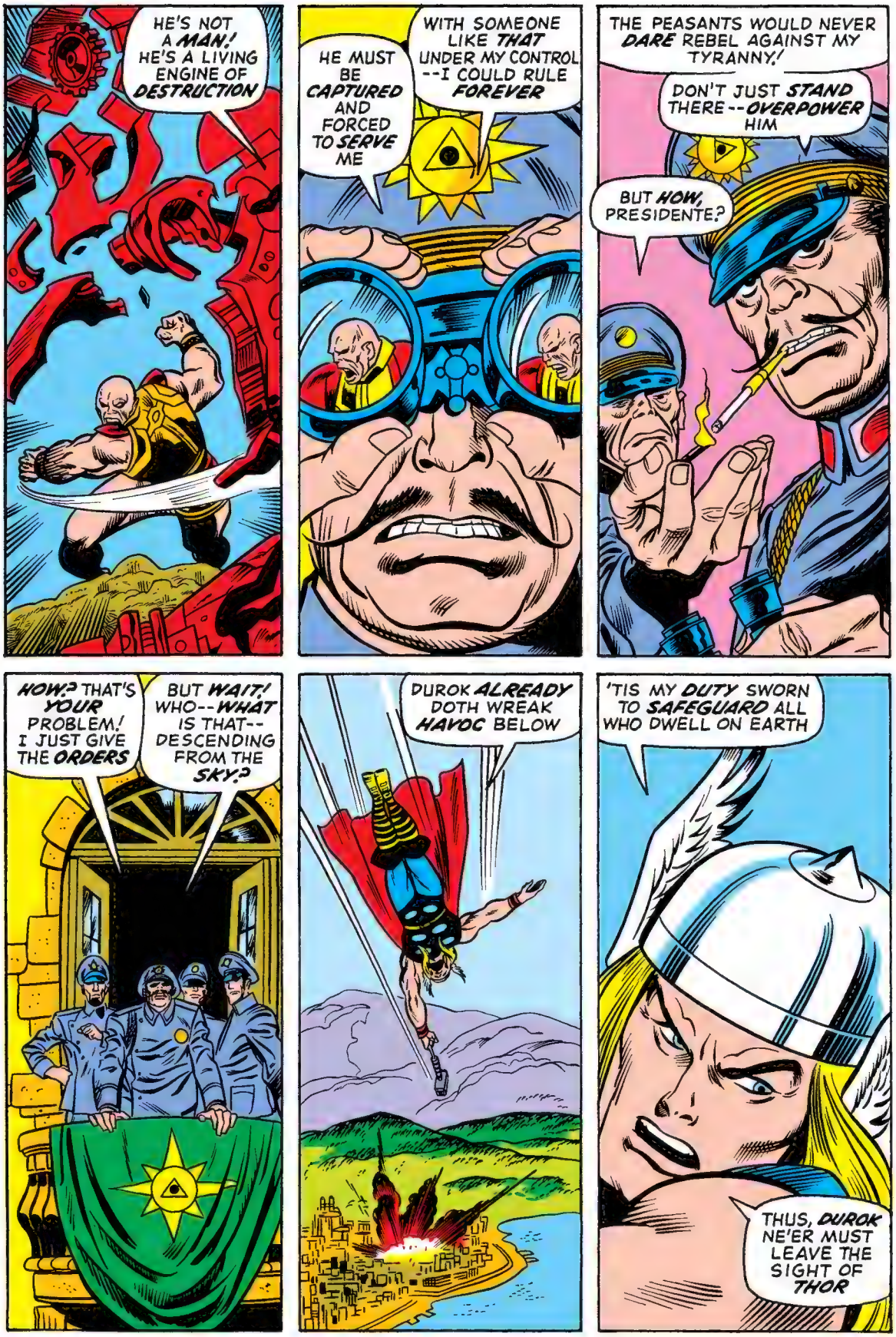
NOW ARE WE ALONE
NOW LET THE BATTLE RAGE
BU-TOOM
WHAT WONDERMENT NOW GREETS MINE EYES
THOUGH MJOLNIR HATH STRUCK WITH TOTAL FORCE--
--IT DID NO MORE THAN TRIP THEE
IS THERE NO LIMIT TO THY STRENGTH?
HE--DOTH ANSWER ME--WITH ACTION
KRAKKK!

TRULY--THOU ART LOKI'S MASTERPIECE OF EVIL
BUT, AS THOU ART STRONG--SO THOR IS STRONG
AND NOW SHALL COME--THE PROVING
THWOP!
ZRAK
AND SO THE BATTLE RAGES--MINUTE AFTER MINUTE--BLOW AFTER BLOW--
GOD OF THUNDER VERSUS SOULLESS DEMOLISHER --AND THE END IS NOT IN SIGHT--
UNTIL--
THE FIGHT CONTINUES
AND THE THUNDER GOD STILL LIVES
BUT, THOUGH HE BE THE SON OF ODIN--STILL HE IS BUT FLESH AND BLOOD
FALL HE MUST! AND FALL HE SHALL! BUT I WILL WAIT NO LONGER

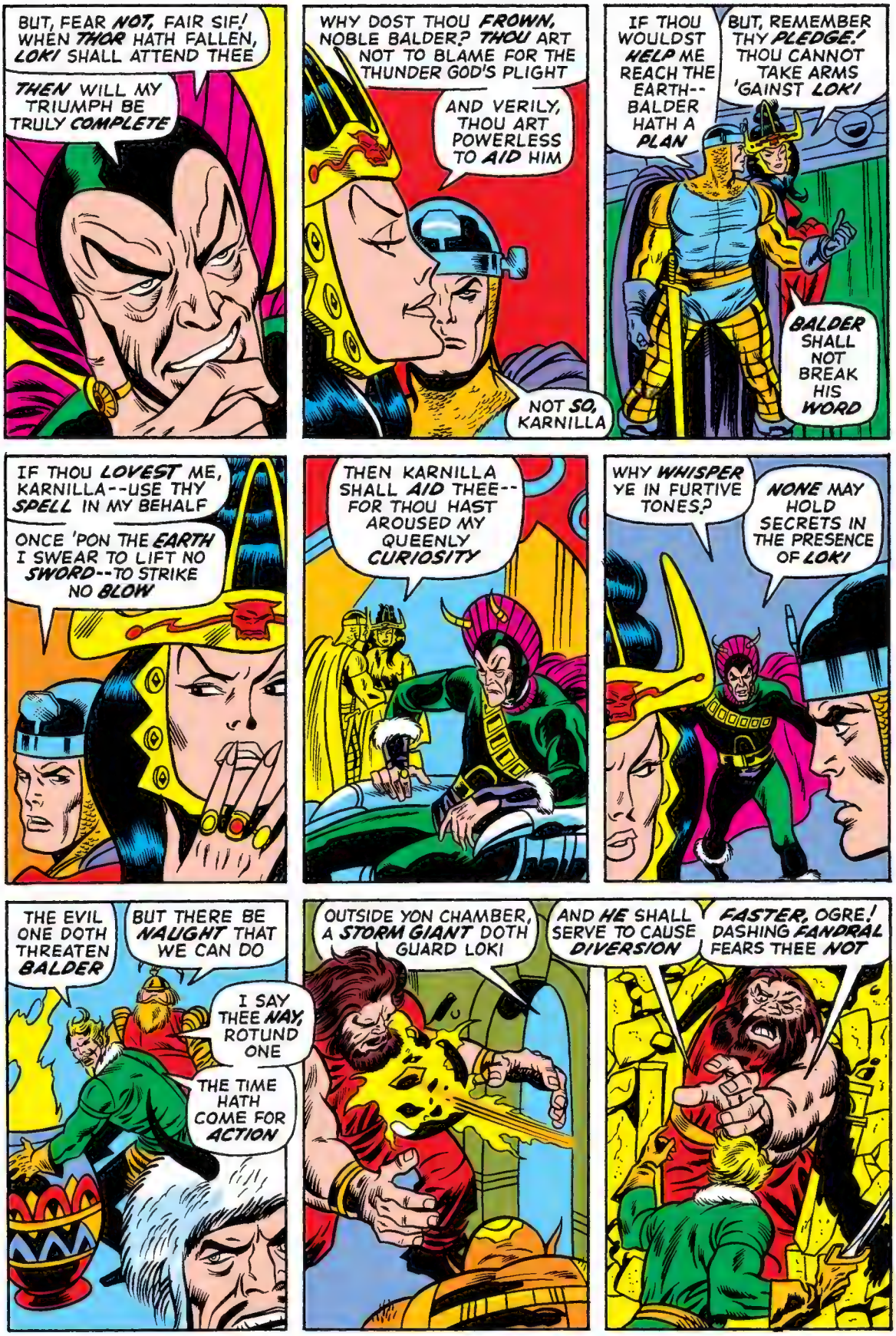

THE SCENE ON EARTH DOTH BORE ME NOW
SO, BY THE POWER OF THE ODIN-RING--
--THE RING WHICH IS LOKI'S TO COMMAND--
--I SHALL CHANGE THE SETTING-- TO SUIT MY PLEASURE
BEFORE MINE EYES--THE DEMOLISHER HATH VANISHED
WHAT NEW WIZARDRY IS THIS? WHAT STRANGE NEW EVIL DOTH SUCH A FEAT PORTEND?
ACCURSED BROTHER-- 'TIS THE WIZARDRY OF LOKI
AND, THE EVIL THAT NOW LIES IN WAIT--NOT EVEN THOU CANST GUESS
THEN DO THINE UTMOST, VILLAIN
THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL NOT FALTER

BUT, KNOW YOU--DUROK'S QUEST HATH FAILED!
HE COULD NOT PROVE THOR'S MASTER
BROTHER, THOU ART TRULY BLIND
I DID BUT SEND HIM FROM THEE--THE BETTER TO PROLONG THE GAME
NOW, WHILST WE SPEAK--DUROK DOTH STRIKE ELSEWHERE
THEN I MUST FLY--TO BATTLE HIM ANEW
BUT FIRST--THERE BE A TASK TO DO--
AND ONLY THOR CAN DO IT
LET ALL RETURN FROM WHENCE THEY WERE --WITH MEMORIES ERASED
'TIS DONE! NOW, LEAVE I MUST,' BUT HOLD--THERE BE NO WAY
YON PRESSING CROWD AFFORDS NO ROOM FOR THOR TO SWING HIS HAMMER
LOOK! LOOK!
IT CAN'T BE! HE--HE'S MOVING THE BUILDING

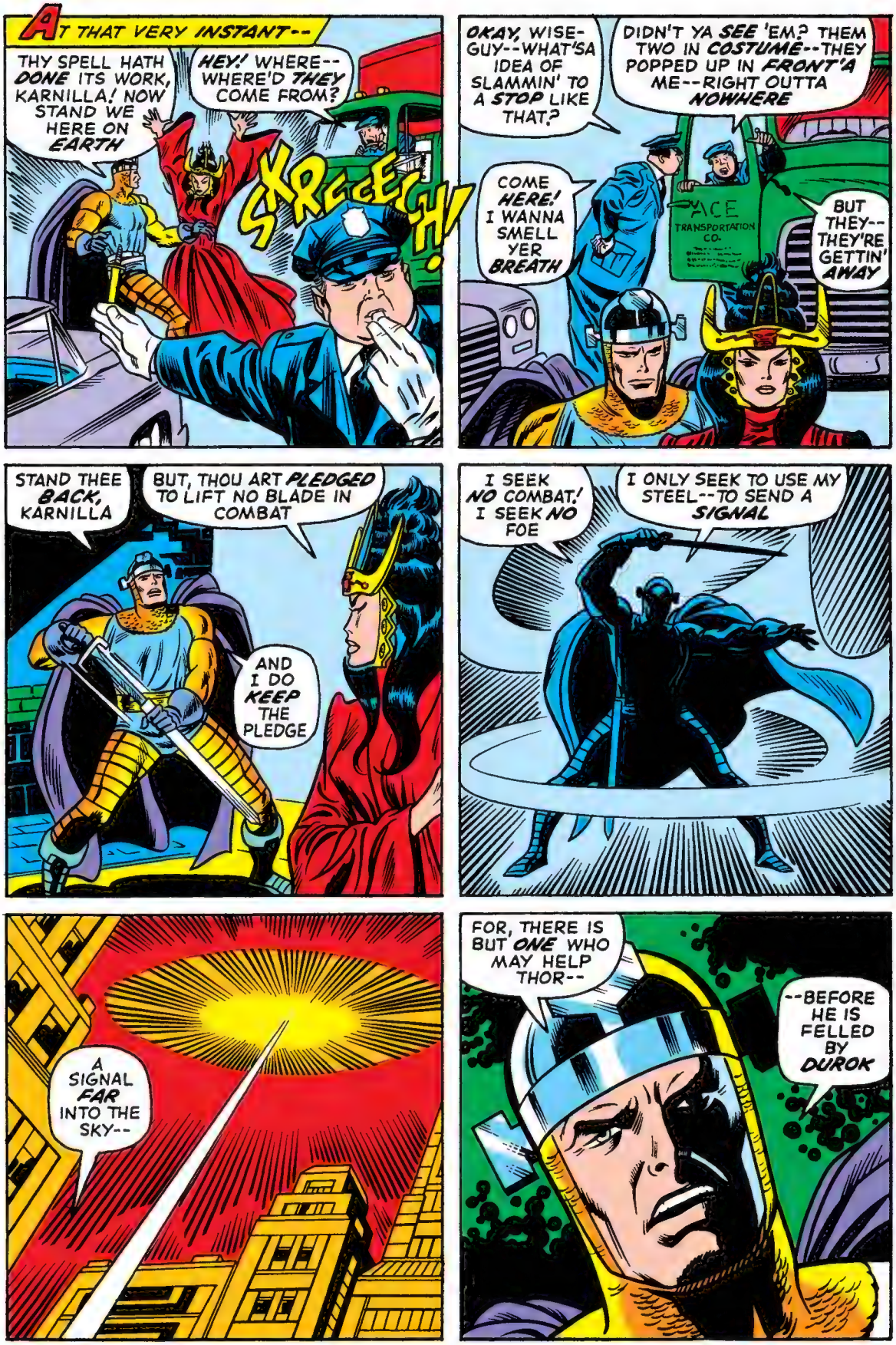

IF THERE BE NO ROOM FOR MIGHTY THOR--
--THE THUNDER GOD SHALL MAKE ROOM
NOW STAND YE BACK-- FOR I MUST FLY
A MISSION DOTH AWAIT ME
AND MJOLNIR'S MAGIC SHALL LEAD ME TRUE-- TO WHERE WAITS THE DEADLY DUROK
EVEN AS THOR SPEAKS, DISASTER STRIKES A SMALL SOUTH-AMERICAN NATION--
DISASTER--IN THE FEARFUL FORM OF DUROK, THE DREAD DEMOLISHER--
NOT EVEN OUR LARGEST TANKS CAN STOP HIM

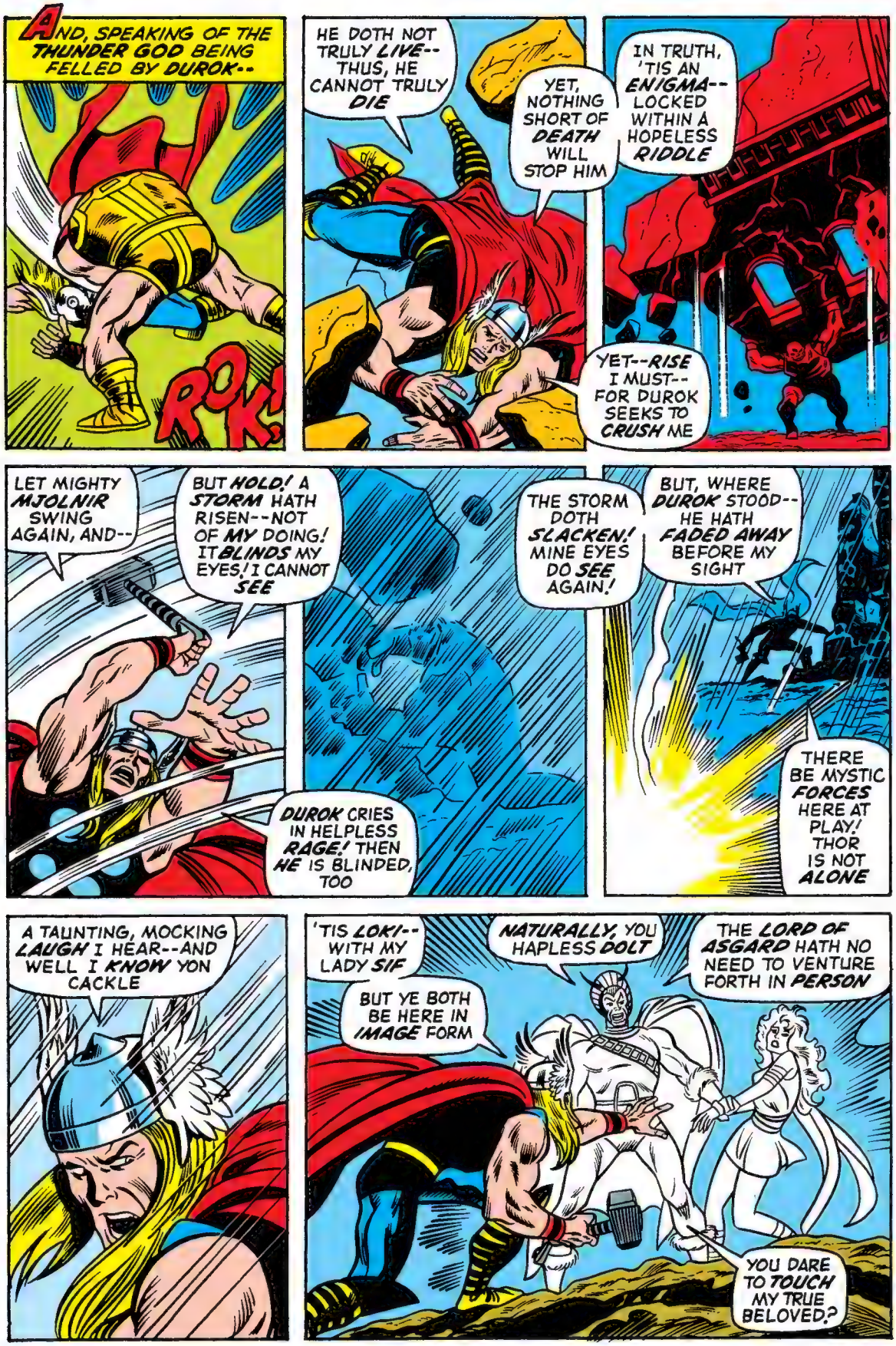

HE'S NOT A MAN! HE'S A LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION
HE MUST BE CAPTURED AND FORCED TO SERVE ME
WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT UNDER MY CONTROL --I COULD RULE FOREVER
THE PEASANTS WOULD NEVER DARE REBEL AGAINST MY TYRANNY!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE--OVERPOWER HIM
BUT HOW, PRESIDENTE?
HOW? THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM! I JUST GIVE THE ORDERS
BUT WAIT! WHO--WHAT IS THAT-- DESCENDING FROM THE SKY?
DUROK ALREADY DOTH WREAK HAVOC BELOW
'TIS MY DUTY SWORN TO SAFEGUARD ALL WHO DWELL ON EARTH
THUS, DUROK NE'ER MUST LEAVE THE SIGHT OF THOR

IT'S USELESS! ARTILLERY WILL NOT STOP HIM
WE MUST FLEE-- BEFORE HE TURNS ON US
RUN! RUN! TAKE TO THE HILLS
BUT SEE--THE MONSTER TURNS TO THE CASTLE! NOT EVEN EL PRESIDENTE IS SAFE
ENOUGH! ENOUGH! I ABDICATE! THE PEASANTS CAN HAVE THEIR FREEDOM
HE DOTH DESTROY ANYTHING-- EVERYTHING--
HE STRIKES WITHOUT REASON OR CAUSE
AGAIN THEY PREPARE TO BATTLE
AGAIN I SHALL WATCH--AS I SIT IN REGAL SAFETY
SOONER OR LATER, DUROK MUST PREVAIL
THEN SIF SHALL FIND ANOTHER-- MORE WORTHY OF HER LOVE
NAY, LOKI! NEVER
NEVER IS TOO LONG, MY LADY


BUT, FEAR NOT, FAIR SIF! WHEN THOR HATH FALLEN, LOKI SHALL ATTEND THEE
THEN WILL MY TRIUMPH BE TRULY COMPLETE
WHY DOST THOU FROWN, NOBLE BALDER? THOU ART NOT TO BLAME FOR THE THUNDER GOD'S PLIGHT
AND VERILY, THOU ART POWERLESS TO AID HIM
NOT SO, KARNILLA
IF THOU WOULDST HELP ME REACH THE EARTH-- BALDER HATH A PLAN
BUT, REMEMBER THY PLEDGE! THOU CANNOT TAKE ARMS 'GAINST LOKI
BALDER SHALL NOT BREAK HIS WORD
IF THOU LOVEST ME, KARNILLA--USE THY SPELL IN MY BEHALF
ONCE 'PON THE EARTH I SWEAR TO LIFT NO SWORD--TO STRIKE NO BLOW
THEN KARNILLA SHALL AID THEE-- FOR THOU HAST AROUSED MY QUEENLY CURIOSITY
WHY WHISPER YE IN FURTIVE TONES?
NONE MAY HOLD SECRETS IN THE PRESENCE OF LOKI
THE EVIL ONE DOTH THREATEN BALDER
BUT THERE BE NAUGHT THAT WE CAN DO
I SAY THEE NAY, ROTUND ONE
THE TIME HATH COME FOR ACTION
OUTSIDE YON CHAMBER, A STORM GIANT DOTH GUARD LOKI
AND HE SHALL SERVE TO CAUSE DIVERSION
FASTER, OGRE! DASHING FANDRAL FEARS THEE NOT

NOW HOWL, BUFFOON--FOR LOKI'S EARS MUST HEAR THEE
SPANG!
I'LL CRUSH YE LIKE A FLEA
BUT HAVE A CARE! THIS FLEA CAN STING
THOOOM!
AHH! THE DASHING FANDRAL DOTH PROVIDE NEW SPORT FOR ME
NOW, MY QUEEN! THE TIME IS NOW
THEN, TO EARTH SHALL BALDER GO--
AND KARNILLA, TOO, SHALL FOLLOW
INSTANTLY, THE VALIANT ASGARDIAN VANISHES-- AS DOES THE MYSTIC QUEEN OF THE NORNS-- WHILE LOKI'S ATTENTION IS RIVETTED ELSEWHERE--
THOU ART SKILLFUL AS EVER, FANDRAL
NOW SLAY THE GIANT! HE DOTH DESERVE IT
NAY, PRINCE OF EVIL! HE HATH SERVED HIS PURPOSE! HE SHALL LIVE


AT THAT VERY INSTANT--
THY SPELL HATH DONE ITS WORK, KARNILLA! NOW STAND WE HERE ON EARTH
HEY! WHERE--WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
SKREECH!
OKAY, WISE-GUY--WHAT'SA IDEA OF SLAMMIN' TO A STOP LIKE THAT?
DIDN'T YA SEE 'EM? THEM TWO IN COSTUME--THEY POPPED UP IN FRONT'A ME--RIGHT OUTTA NOWHERE
COME HERE! I WANNA SMELL YER BREATH
ACE TRANSPORTATION CO.
BUT THEY--THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY
STAND THEE BACK, KARNILLA
BUT, THOU ART PLEDGED TO LIFT NO BLADE IN COMBAT
AND I DO KEEP THE PLEDGE
I SEEK NO COMBAT! I SEEK NO FOE
I ONLY SEEK TO USE MY STEEL--TO SEND A SIGNAL
A SIGNAL FAR INTO THE SKY--
FOR, THERE IS BUT ONE WHO MAY HELP THOR--
--BEFORE HE IS FELLED BY DUROK


AND, SPEAKING OF THE THUNDER GOD BEING FELLED BY DUROK--
ROK!
HE DOTH NOT TRULY LIVE-- THUS, HE CANNOT TRULY DIE
YET, NOTHING SHORT OF DEATH WILL STOP HIM
IN TRUTH, 'TIS AN ENIGMA-- LOCKED WITHIN A HOPELESS RIDDLE
YET--RISE I MUST-- FOR DUROK SEEKS TO CRUSH ME
LET MIGHTY MJOLNIR SWING AGAIN, AND--
BUT HOLD! A STORM HATH RISEN--NOT OF MY DOING! IT BLINDS MY EYES, I CANNOT SEE
DUROK CRIES IN HELPLESS RAGE! THEN HE IS BLINDED, TOO
THE STORM DOTH SLACKEN! MINE EYES DO SEE AGAIN!
BUT, WHERE DUROK STOOD-- HE HATH FADED AWAY BEFORE MY SIGHT
THERE BE MYSTIC FORCES HERE AT PLAY! THOR IS NOT ALONE
A TAUNTING, MOCKING LAUGH I HEAR--AND WELL I KNOW YON CACKLE
'TIS LOKI-- WITH MY LADY SIF
BUT YE BOTH BE HERE IN IMAGE FORM
NATURALLY, YOU HAPLESS DOLT
THE LORD OF ASGARD HATH NO NEED TO VENTURE FORTH IN PERSON
YOU DARE TO TOUCH MY TRUE BELOVED?

UNHAND HER, BROTHER, OR NOTHING THOU CANST DO WILL--
BE THOU SILENT, WITLESS CLOD
'TIS I WHO WEAR THE RING
NOW, MARK MY WORDS --AND MARK THEM WELL--
DUROK HATH BEEN TRANSPORTED ONCE AGAIN--TO WHERE THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING STANDS
NAY!! WITH HIS AWESOME POWER--IF HE SHOULD STRIKE IN SUCH A PLACE--
AND STRIKE HE WILL, I WARRANT THEE
IT WILL BE THE START OF THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION OF ALL MANKIND
AND, SINCE THOU ART SWORN TO AID MANKIND--THOU HAST NO CHOICE BUT TO PURSUE HIM--AND FIGHT HIM TO THE DEATH
AND WHILST THOU FIGHT-- AND WHILST THOU FALL--
I LEAVE THEE WITH THIS FINAL THOUGHT--
THE LADY SIF SHALL BE MY QUEEN
NOW GET THEE TO THY SNIVELLING HUMANS
AND, WHILST THOU FIGHT FOR THEM, IN VAIN--THE ONE YE LOVE SHALL BE MY BRIDE
SO, THOR DOTH LOSE, NO MATTER WHAT
O, BASE VILLAIN! IN ALL THE YAWNING COSMOS, NONE CAN MATCH THY CONSUMMATE EVIL
LOKI IS GONE --AND WITH HIM-- MY HEART-- MY VERY LIFE
AY, WELL HE KNOWS THAT THOR MUST STAY--AND BATTLE DUROK TILL THE END
BUT, HOW TO FIGHT--AND HOW PREVAIL --WHEN MY WORLD IS SHATTERED 'ROUND ME?

MEANWHILE, ALL BUT FORGOTTEN BY THE THUNDER GOD, LOYAL BALDER AND THE MYSTIC KARNILLA REACH THE PEAK OF TOWERING MT. EVEREST--
WHY COME WE TO THIS LONELY PLACE?
BECAUSE 'TIS THE HIGHEST ONE OF ALL
AND I MUST SIGNAL ONCE AGAIN
STILL THOU HAST NOT TOLD ME--WHO IS IT BALDER SEEKS?
THE ONLY ONE WHO HATH THE POWER TO AID THE MIGHTY THOR
BUT ODIN STILL DOTH SLEEP
'TIS NOT ODIN OF WHOM I SPEAK! I SEEK ANOTHER-- NOT OF ASGARD-- NOT OF EARTH
THERE BE NO SUCH! THOU HAST LED ME ON A FUTILE QUEST
NOT SO, MY LADY! BEHOLD THE SKY--
HE COMES! MY SIGNAL HATH BEEN SEEN
HIS SPEED! IT CAN ONLY BE--
THE SILVER SURFER!
NEXT: THIS POWER UNLEASHED!

THOR
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THE MIGHTY
THOR
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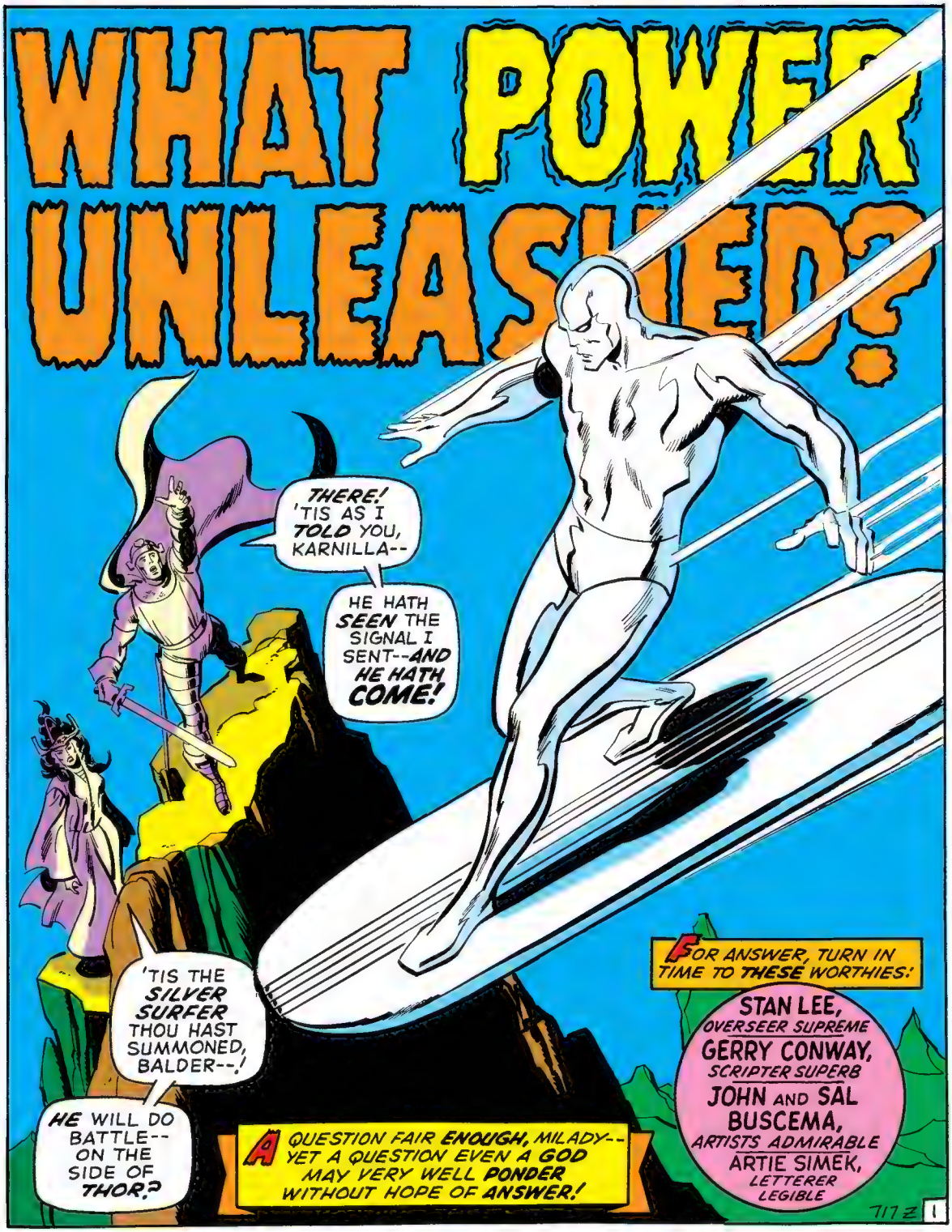
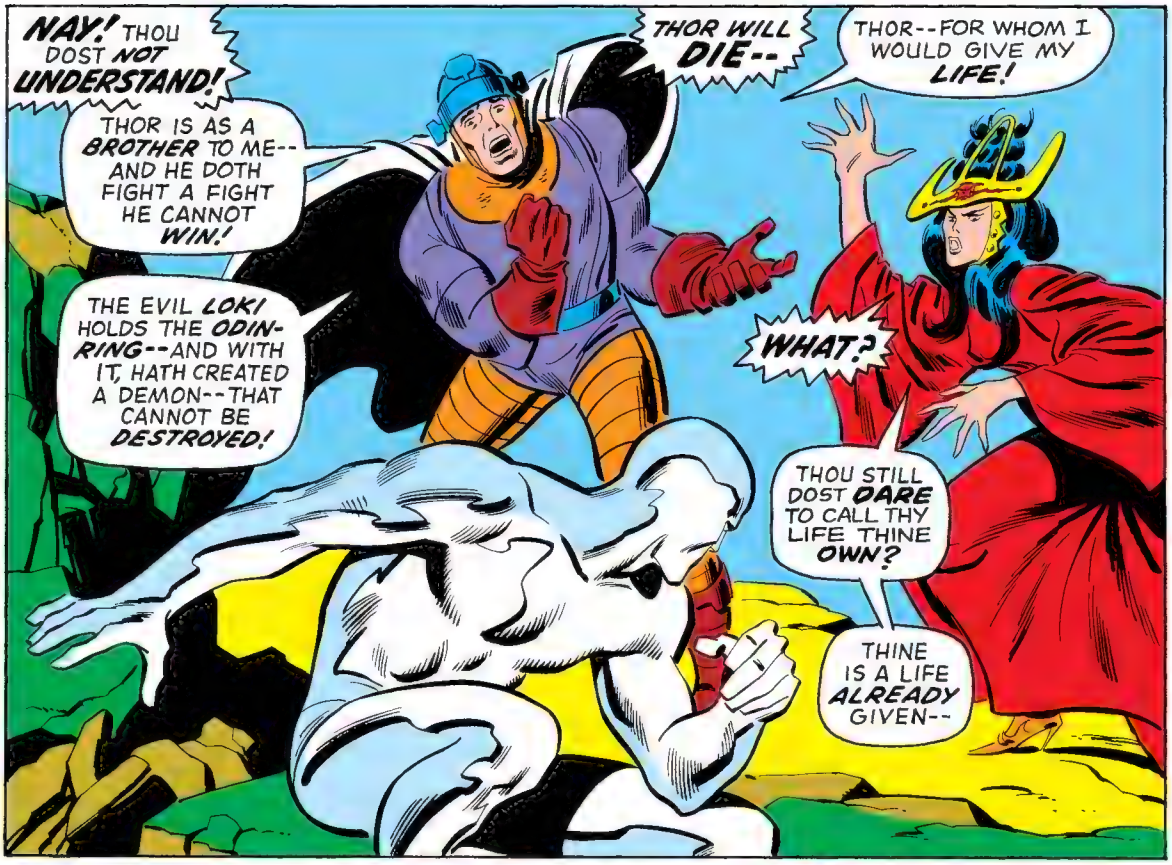
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ALL-NEW!
A 34-PAGE SUPER-SAGA STARRING THE THUNDER GOD and The SILVER SURFER!
WHAT POWER UNLEASHED?

# THE MIGHTY THOR!™


WHAT POWER UNLEASHED?
THERE! 'TIS AS I TOLD YOU, KARNILLA--
HE HATH SEEN THE SIGNAL I SENT--AND HE HATH COME!
'TIS THE SILVER SURFER THOU HAST SUMMONED, BALDER--!
HE WILL DO BATTLE-- ON THE SIDE OF THOR?
A QUESTION FAIR ENOUGH, MILADY-- YET A QUESTION EVEN A GOD MAY VERY WELL PONDER WITHOUT HOPE OF ANSWER!
FOR ANSWER, TURN IN TIME TO THESE WORTHIES!
STAN LEE, OVERSEER SUPREME
GERRY CONWAY, SCRIPTER SUPERB
JOHN AND SAL BUSCEMA, ARTISTS ADMIRABLE
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER LEGIBLE
7172
1

UPON THAT WIND-SWEPT PEAK--
TWO HUMAN FORMS... ARE THEY THE ONES WHO CALLED ME FROM THE COSMIC PATH?
NO--THE HUMANS ARE TOO WEAK--
AND YET...I SENSE SOMETHING OTHER THAN A HUMAN SPIRIT HEREIN PRESENT.
PERHAPS I JUDGED THEM TOO-- RASHLY.
PERHAPS... THERE IS SOMETHING THE SILVER SURFER MAY YET LEARN--
--MAY YET DISCOVER-- UPON THIS TEAR-WASHED GLOBE.
WHAT NAME HAVE YOU WHO SUMMONED ME?
I AM CALLED BALDER... THE BRAVE.
PRESUMPTUOUS ENOUGH-- FOR A HUMAN.
NO HUMANS WE--BUT GODS.
AND THIS DAY...THE GODS NEED THINE AID!
MY AID?
I'VE SWORN TO AID YOUR DECEITFUL KIND-- NEVERMORE.
FORGET THIS USELESS PLOY, BALDER--!
HUSH, MY LADY-- I BE PLEDGED TO SERVE THEE--
--NOT SPEAK WORDS-- THOU DOST WISH TO HEAR.
BUT A THOUSAND MILES DISTANT-- THE THUNDER GOD DOTH BATTLE DUROK THE DEMOLISHER--
--BATTLES--FOR THE FATE OF THIS WORLD!
NO CONCERN OF MINE.
ONCE I BLED FOR YOUR KIND-- BUT NO MORE.
THE SURFER HAS GIVEN ENOUGH OF HIS HEART... TO HEARTLESS EARTHLINGS.
2


NAY! THOU DOST NOT UNDERSTAND!
THOR IS AS A BROTHER TO ME--AND HE DOTH FIGHT A FIGHT HE CANNOT WIN!
THE EVIL LOKI HOLDS THE ODIN-RING--AND WITH IT, HATH CREATED A DEMON--THAT CANNOT BE DESTROYED!
THOR WILL DIE--
THOR--FOR WHOM I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE!
WHAT?
THOU STILL DOST DARE TO CALL THY LIFE THINE OWN?
THINE IS A LIFE ALREADY GIVEN--

--GIVEN IN PLEDGE TO KARNILLA--
SHE WHO IS--THE NORN-QUEEN!

NAY--KARNILLA, NAY!
THOOM
FOR IMPUDENCE SUCH AS THIS--
BALDER MUST BE PUNISHED!

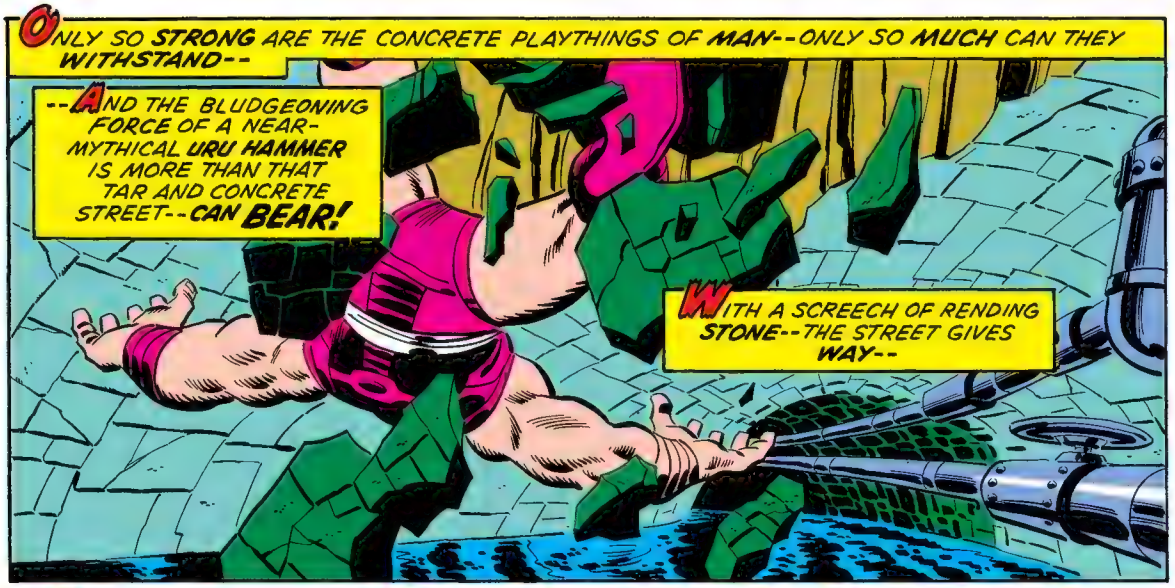
SOUND AND FURY! EARTH AND FIRE MESH--AND WHEN THEY PART--
BALDER LIES STILL--AND SEEMINGLY LIFELESS!
WOMAN--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

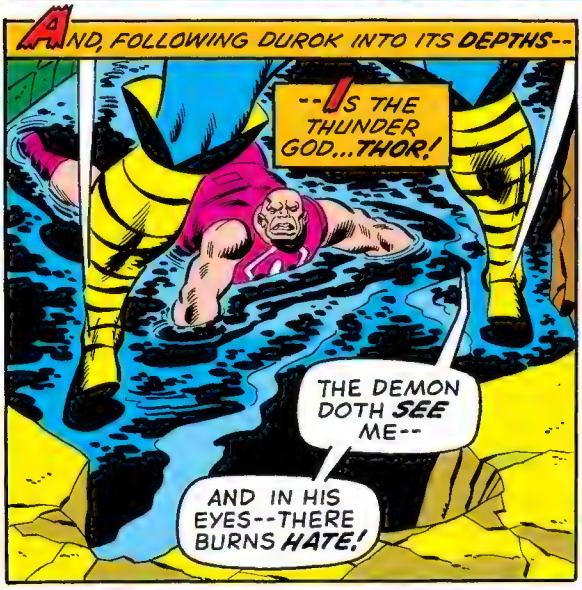
THAT WAS A MAN YOU ATTACKED--
A MAN OF FEELING FLESH--A MAN OF BURNING BLOOD.
REMOVE THOSE STONES--AND PRAY HE IS NOT--DEAD.
DARE YOU THREATEN ME?
MINE IS THE POWER ELEMENTAL--
--'GAINST SUCH AS IT--NONE MAY PREVAIL!
NONE!
ZLACK!
THE SILVER SURFER BOWS TO NO FEMALE.
...TO NO QUEEN.
REMOVE THOSE STONES--NOW!
YEA, AS THOU DOST ASK...
BUT...BUT WAIT. WHY LIES THAT NOBLE HEAD--SO STILL?
--'TWILL BE DONE.
SILENCE, WOMAN. YOUR UNTHINKING VIOLENCE ALL BUT KILLED HIM.
ONLY THE POWER COSMIC MAY SUSTAIN HIM NOW.
KILLED HIM?
WHAT FOOL BE THIS HEART OF MINE--
--THAT RAGE SHOULD MAKE ME HARM--
--THIS GOD I TRULY LOVE?

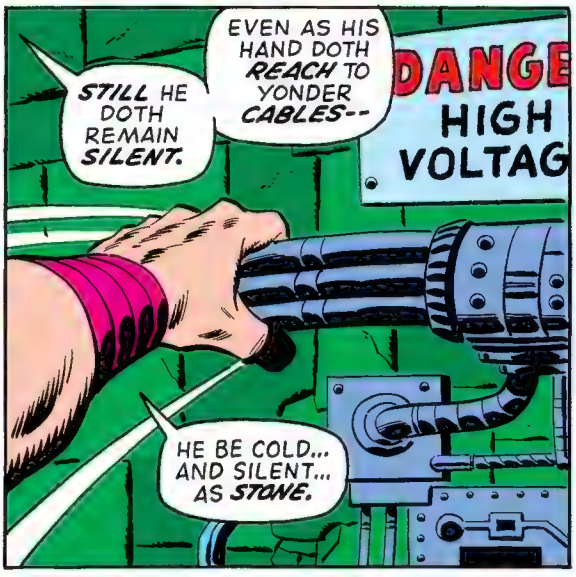
RISE, BALDER... YOU WHO ARE CALLED BRAVE.
RISE--AND THANK WHATEVER GODS--GODS PRAY TO.
TO WHAT END?
IN MY PURPOSE... I HAVE FAILED. AND BY MY FAILURE--THOR IS DOOMED.
FAILED? NO--YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED, MY FRIEND.
IF THIS "GOD" CAN GAIN SUCH LOYAL LOVE--
THEN THE SURFER CAN DO NO LESS--
--THAN BATTLE AT HIS SIDE.
WHERE WILL I FIND--THIS DUROK THE DEMOLISHER?
AT THE CITY CALLED WASHINGTON--
--IN THE NATION KNOWN --AS AMERICA.
THEN IT IS THERE I GO--
--IN GREATEST HASTE--
--AT SWIFTEST SPEED!
BALDER, MY LOVE--
HUSH, MILADY.
NO WORDS NEED BE SAID--SAVE THAT I UNDERSTAND.
LET US THINK, INSTEAD, OF ANOTHER MAN--
--HE WHO RIDES THE SILVER SURFBOARD--
HE WHO FLIES--TO AID.
THINK OF HIM--WHO GIVES OF HIMSELF--AND RECEIVES IN TURN ...ONLY PAIN.
YEA...THINK OF HIM--WHO STREAKS ABOVE A DUST-GRAY CITY...
...WHO FINDS NO SIGN OF THOSE HE SEEKS...
5

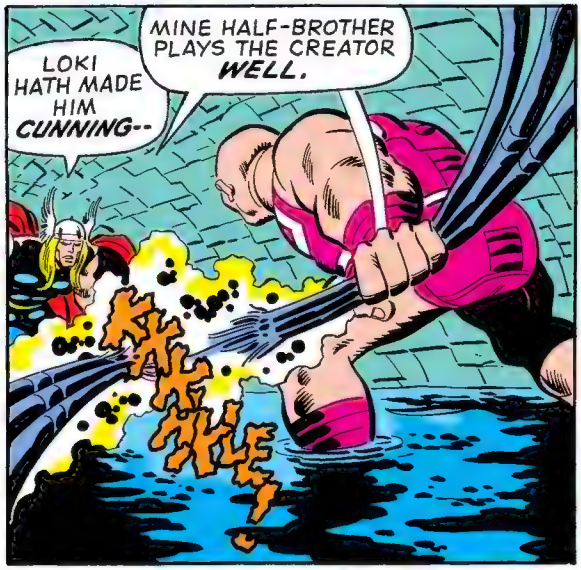
AHH, BUT IF HE HAD COME A MOMENT EARLIER--
DESTRUCTION WOULD HE HAVE SEEN--
BATTLE WOULD HE HAVE HEARD!
CHOOM!
AND, IN THE GRIP OF THE DEADLY DEMOLISHER, HE WOULD HAVE SPIED--
THOR!
EACH BLOW I STRIKE--AFFECTS HIM NOT!
'TIS LIKE A NIGHT-MARE.
'TIS NOT FLESH THAT COVERS HIS BONES--
'TIS SOME MYSTIC-BRED STONE--
LOKI HATH CREATED THE UNBEATABLE FOE!
YET-- I AM THOR--
--AND THOR SHALL NOT FALL!
WHUNK!
ODIN--GRANT ME A MOMENT-- JUST A MOMENT TO FREE MYSELF--!
AND HE DOTH MOVE --WITHOUT A WORD--
BY THE ALL-FATHER--WHY DOTH HE NOT SPEAK?
NAY... THE CREATURE MOVES.
MANY FOES HAVE I FOUGHT--
--BUT NONE LIKE THIS DEMON-THING,
HATH LOKI IN TRUTH-- SEALED MY DOOM?
6

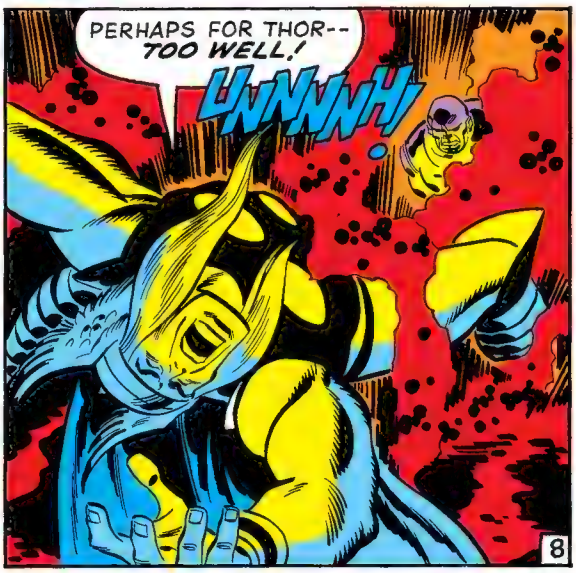
I SAY THEE NAY!
THOR IS GOD OF THUNDER-- AND THOUGH ALL THE GODS OF ASGARD BOW TO LOKI'S WILL--
THOR WILL NEVER BOW--
--NEVER SCRAPE--
NEVER!
WHOOM
BUT, WHAT MYSTERY BE THIS?
MY BLOW COULD BUT SCARCELY FELL HIM--
YET HE DOTH NOT RISE TO THE ATTACK--!
NAY-- A FOULER PLAN HATH HE!
LOKI GAVE HIM THE WILL TO DESTROY--
--AND NOW HE DOTH TURN AGAIN TO THAT TASK--
--BY LIFTING YONDER BUILDING!
'TIS MY SACRED DUTY TO PROTECT THESE CHILDREN OF EARTH--
--AND THIS DOTH LOKI KNOW!
HE SEEKS TO WEARY ME IN ENDLESS BATTLE--
--BUT I HAVE MY OATH--
AND THAT OATH MUST I EVER OBEY!
DUROK MUST FALL--
NOW!
CHOOOM!

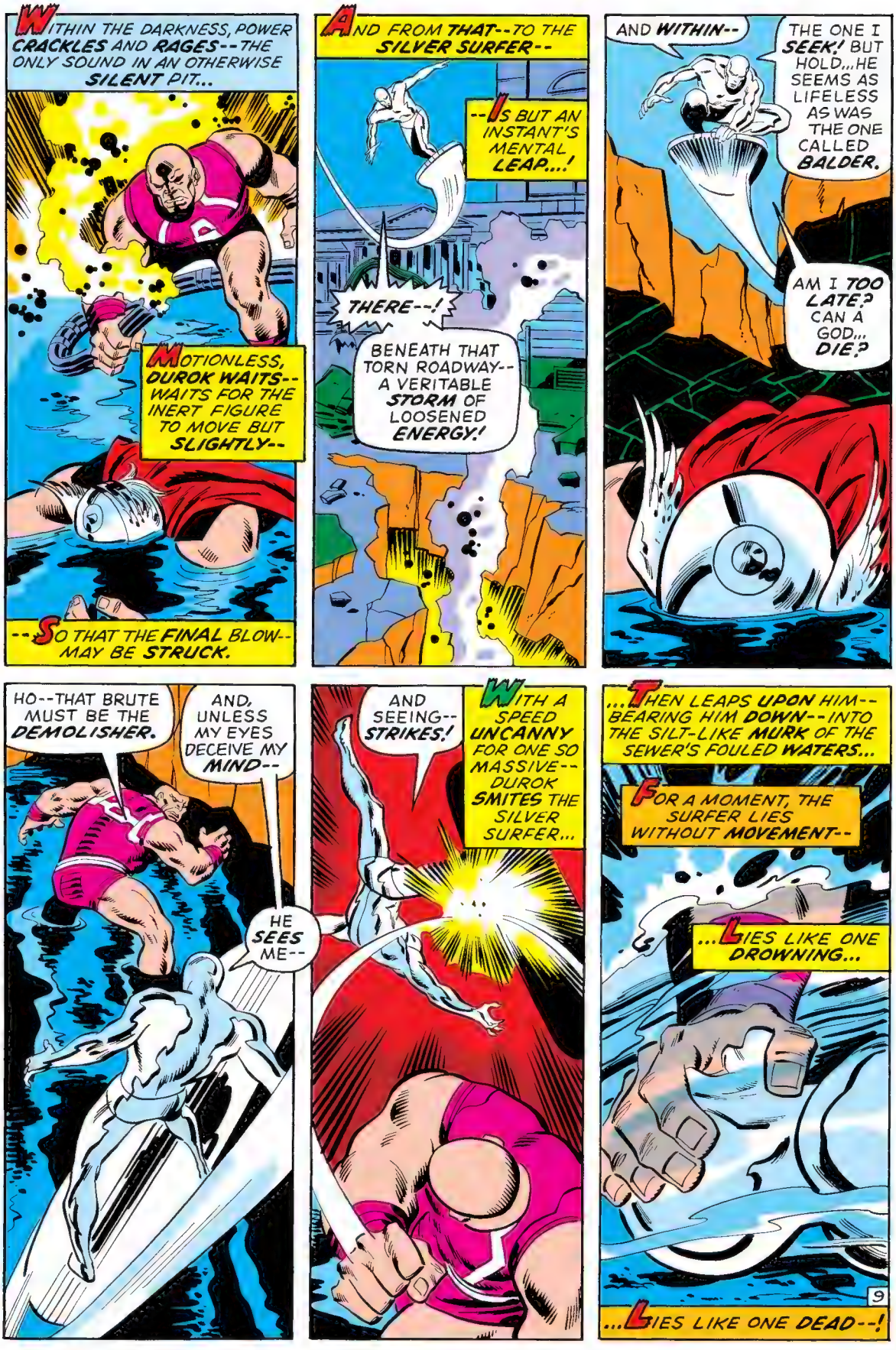

ONLY SO STRONG ARE THE CONCRETE PLAYTHINGS OF MAN--ONLY SO MUCH CAN THEY WITHSTAND--
--AND THE BLUDGEONING FORCE OF A NEAR-MYTHICAL URU HAMMER IS MORE THAN THAT TAR AND CONCRETE STREET--CAN BEAR!
WITH A SCREECH OF RENDING STONE--THE STREET GIVES WAY--


AND, FOLLOWING DUROK INTO ITS DEPTHS--
--IS THE THUNDER GOD...THOR!
THE DEMON DOTH SEE ME--
AND IN HIS EYES--THERE BURNS HATE!

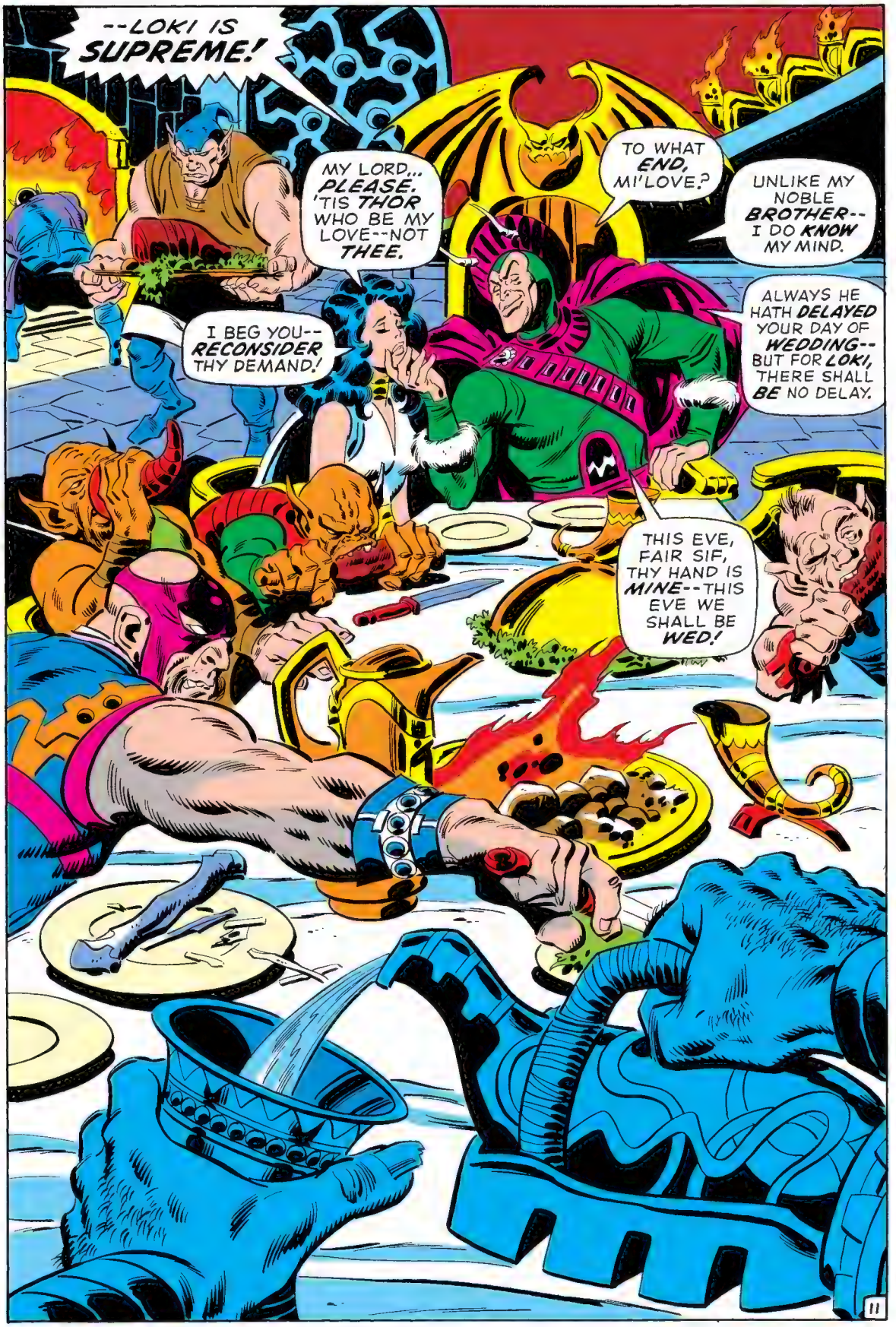

STILL HE DOTH REMAIN SILENT.
EVEN AS HIS HAND DOTH REACH TO YONDER CABLES--
DANGE
HIGH VOLTAG
HE BE COLD... AND SILENT... AS STONE.


LOKI HATH MADE HIM CUNNING--
MINE HALF-BROTHER PLAYS THE CREATOR WELL.
KA-KLE!

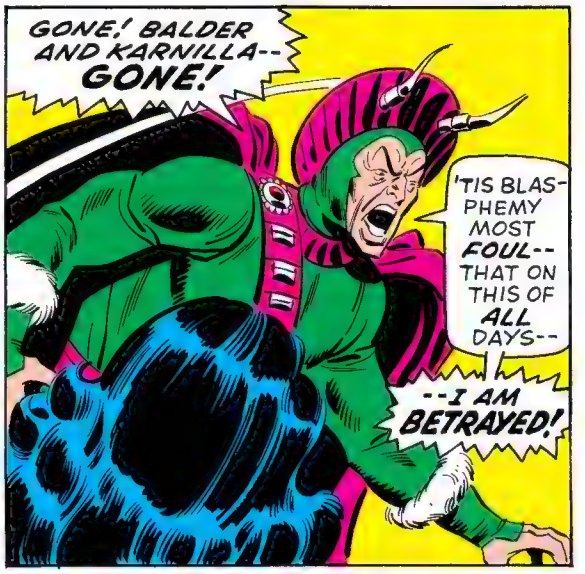

PERHAPS FOR THOR--TOO WELL!
UNNNNH!


WITHIN THE DARKNESS, POWER CRACKLES AND RAGES--THE ONLY SOUND IN AN OTHERWISE SILENT PIT...
MOTIONLESS, DUROK WAITS--WAITS FOR THE INERT FIGURE TO MOVE BUT SLIGHTLY--
--SO THAT THE FINAL BLOW--MAY BE STRUCK.
AND FROM THAT--TO THE SILVER SURFER--
--IS BUT AN INSTANT'S MENTAL LEAP...!
THERE--!
BENEATH THAT TORN ROADWAY--A VERITABLE STORM OF LOOSENED ENERGY!
AND WITHIN--
THE ONE I SEEK! BUT HOLD...HE SEEMS AS LIFELESS AS WAS THE ONE CALLED BALDER.
AM I TOO LATE? CAN A GOD... DIE?
HO--THAT BRUTE MUST BE THE DEMOLISHER.
AND, UNLESS MY EYES DECEIVE MY MIND--
HE SEES ME--
AND SEEING--STRIKES!
WITH A SPEED UNCANNY FOR ONE SO MASSIVE--DUROK SMITES THE SILVER SURFER...
...THEN LEAPS UPON HIM--BEARING HIM DOWN--INTO THE SILT-LIKE MURK OF THE SEWER'S FOULED WATERS...
FOR A MOMENT, THE SURFER LIES WITHOUT MOVEMENT--
...LIES LIKE ONE DROWNING...
9
...LIES LIKE ONE DEAD--!

--AND THEN HE STARTS TO STRUGGLE-- TO TWIST AND TURN--
--ALL IN CAREFUL DIVERSION-- AS A SLEEK, SPEEDING BOARD STREAKS DOWN, DOWN--
--AND, WITH BLINDING FORCE--
--CONNECTS!
THUNK!
THOR IS LIMP-- I THINK UNCONSCIOUS ...BUT NO...
--YET, WILL A MOMENT BE ALL I NEED?
A MOMENT'S SPELL OF BREATH, THEN--
...THERE IS NO THROB OF LIFE IN HIS WARRIOR'S BREAST--
NO PULSE IN HIS MUSCLED WRIST--!
CAN IT BE? CAN A GOD... TRULY PERISH?
FOR IF HE CAN...
THEN THOR IS DEAD!
AND THE SURFER'S WORDS ECHO-- AND ECHOING--
--SEEM TO REACH THE VERY HALLS OF ASGARD!
FAIR SIF!
THE PRIVILEGE OF CHOICE BE THINE NO LONGER...
FOR THOR BE DEAD--AND ON THIS DAY--


--LOKI IS SUPREME!
MY LORD... PLEASE, 'TIS THOR WHO BE MY LOVE--NOT THEE.
TO WHAT END, MI'LOVE?
UNLIKE MY NOBLE BROTHER--I DO KNOW MY MIND.
I BEG YOU--RECONSIDER THY DEMAND!
ALWAYS HE HATH DELAYED YOUR DAY OF WEDDING--BUT FOR LOKI, THERE SHALL BE NO DELAY.
THIS EVE, FAIR SIF, THY HAND IS MINE--THIS EVE WE SHALL BE WED!

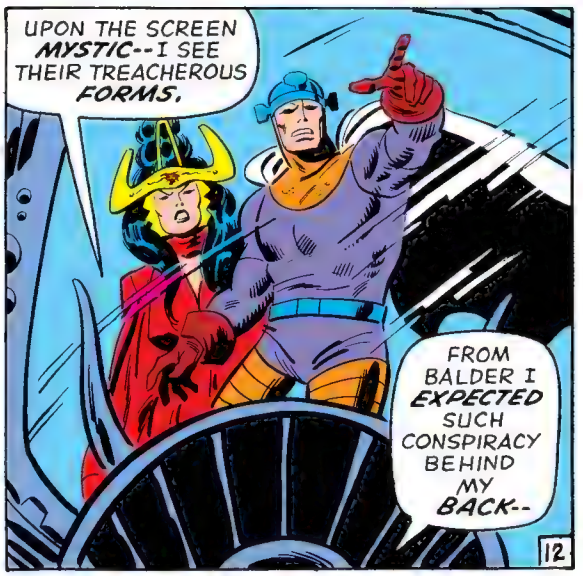
FOR WHO MAY SAY US NAY?
NOT THOR-- NOT ONCE-GREAT ODIN...!
EVEN BALDER THE BRAVE HATH NO LEAVE TO SPEAK.
AND THEREIN LIES MY POWER-- EH?


GONE! BALDER AND KARNILLA-- GONE!
'TIS BLASPHEMY MOST FOUL-- THAT ON THIS OF ALL DAYS--
--I AM BETRAYED!

WENCH. KNOW YOU WHERE THEY BE? NAY, YOU'LL NOT SAY.
THY "LOYALTY" FORBIDS IT.
MY LORD LOKI--!

SILENCE!
I'LL HEAR NO MORE OF LYING WORDS--!
OUT! ALL OF THEE-- OUT!
HE BE MAD!
RUN! RUN!

YEA, AND RUN FAR, FALSE FRIENDS--
LEST THOU FEEL THE WRATH THAT YET WILL RAGE THE DAY.
BY MY COMMAND --LET THE TWO APPEAR!


UPON THE SCREEN MYSTIC--I SEE THEIR TREACHEROUS FORMS.
FROM BALDER I EXPECTED SUCH CONSPIRACY BEHIND MY BACK--

--BUT FROM THE NORN-QUEEN AS WELL?
MY SOUL DOTH CRY WITH BITTERNESS! BITTERNESS--MOST FOUL.
ODIN-RING! BRING THEM BEFORE ME--
--NOW!
HAH! NOW SPEAK, AND TELL WHAT THOU HAST CONSPIRED.
MILORD--'TIS ALL MOST INNOCENT.
WE MERELY WATCHED THOR'S CRUEL FALL--!
LIES!
DOTH THE BRAVE BALDER HIDE--BEHIND A FEMALE'S FLOWING SKIRTS?
I HAVE NO SECRETS--AND NO FEAR, VILE ONE.
TO EARTH I WENT--TO AID THE NOBLE THOR.
SO, YOURS WILL BE A REWARD MOST PAINFUL, LOUT.
LOKI... MILORD... HAST THOU NO MERCY?
HE BUT SOUGHT TO HELP HIS FRIEND--AND FOR THIS, THOU WOULDST PUNISH HIM?
YEA, FOR THIS AND MORE--
--HE MUST PAY!
STAND YE BACK, MY LOVELY--AND WITNESS THE JUSTICE--OF LOKI!
AHHHHH!
13

SPEAK TO ME NOW OF MERCY, WOMAN--AND OF COMPASSION.
WHERE BE THY SYMPATHY-- THY BLEEDING SOUL?
LOOK TO BALDER FOR COMFORT NOW--
--TO HIM-- OR TO ME-- WILL YOU GO?
TO BALDER ALWAYS, CRUEL LORD.
WHAT MATTER HIS OUTWARD COUNTENANCE? 'TIS HIS SPIRIT FOR WHICH I CARE!
A TRAGIC PLOY, MY DEAR.
TRAGIC-- AND USELESS!
MINE IS THE POWER OVER ALL--
MINE IS THE POWER THAT CONTROLS.
LOOK-- OUT YON WINDOW--
THE VERY AIR IS MINE TO MOLD--!
ALL THINGS BE SUBJECT TO MY WILL... MINE!
AND OVER EVERYTHING IN HEAVEN AND EARTH--
--'TIS LOKI WHO BE MASTER!
14

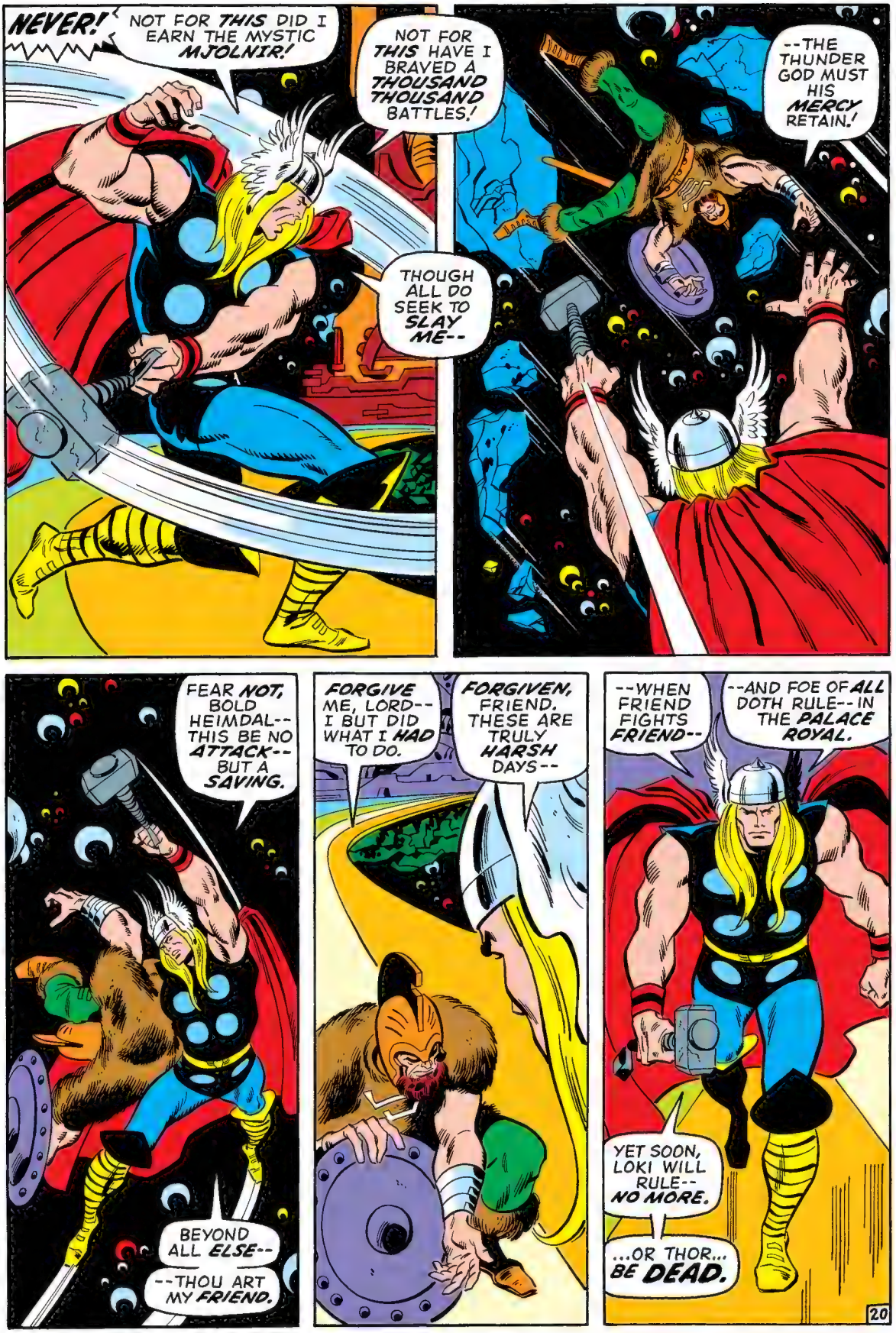
THEY DID CALL ME THE GOD OF MISCHIEF BEFORE... YET NOW THEIR KNEES ARE BENT IN REVERENCE.
'TIS FITTING, MOST FITTING.
AND ALL OF THIS BE SO... BECAUSE THE ODIN-RING BE MINE!
STILL... A GOD MUST BE MERCIFUL, METHINKS.
YEA... MERCIFUL, AND KIND.
AND, ABOVE ALL, IT MUST NE'ER BE SAID--
--THAT LOKI WERE NOT THE BEST OF GODS.
ARISE, BALDER.
LOKI HATH FORGIVEN YOU... IN HIS MOST INFINITE WISDOM.
ARISE-- AND FIGHT ME-- NO MORE.
15

DOST THOU SEE, MILADY?
THE HAND OF LOKI CAN BE... MOST GENTLE.
ETERNITY WITH HIM-- SHALL BE MOST SWEET.
AND, "GENTLE LOKI"-- WHAT OF THOR?
--WHAT OF THOR?
HE MOVES NOT... LIFE STILL SMOULDERS WITHIN HIS BREAST--
I KNOW IT. I KNOW IT.!
THEN...I MUST DO AS I DID FOR THE ONE CALLED BALDER--
I MUST BRING TO BEAR MY FULLEST FORCE--
ONCE MORE THIS HOUR, MY BRAIN DOES FIRE--
--AND THE POWER COSMIC ROARS!
WITHIN THE DANK SEWER, ENERGY MOST POTENT ERUPTS--
--AND, IN BUT A MOMENT'S SPACE, A CHOKING GASP IS HEARD--
THE GASP...OF RETURNING LIFE.
CAREFUL. LEAN ON ME, MY FRIEND.
LEAN....?
WAIT! I KNOW THOSE BURNISHED FEATURES--
THE SILVER SURFER-- HERE?
THE HOW AND WHY DO NOT MATTER, THUNDER GOD.
IT WAS I WHO SAVED YOU--

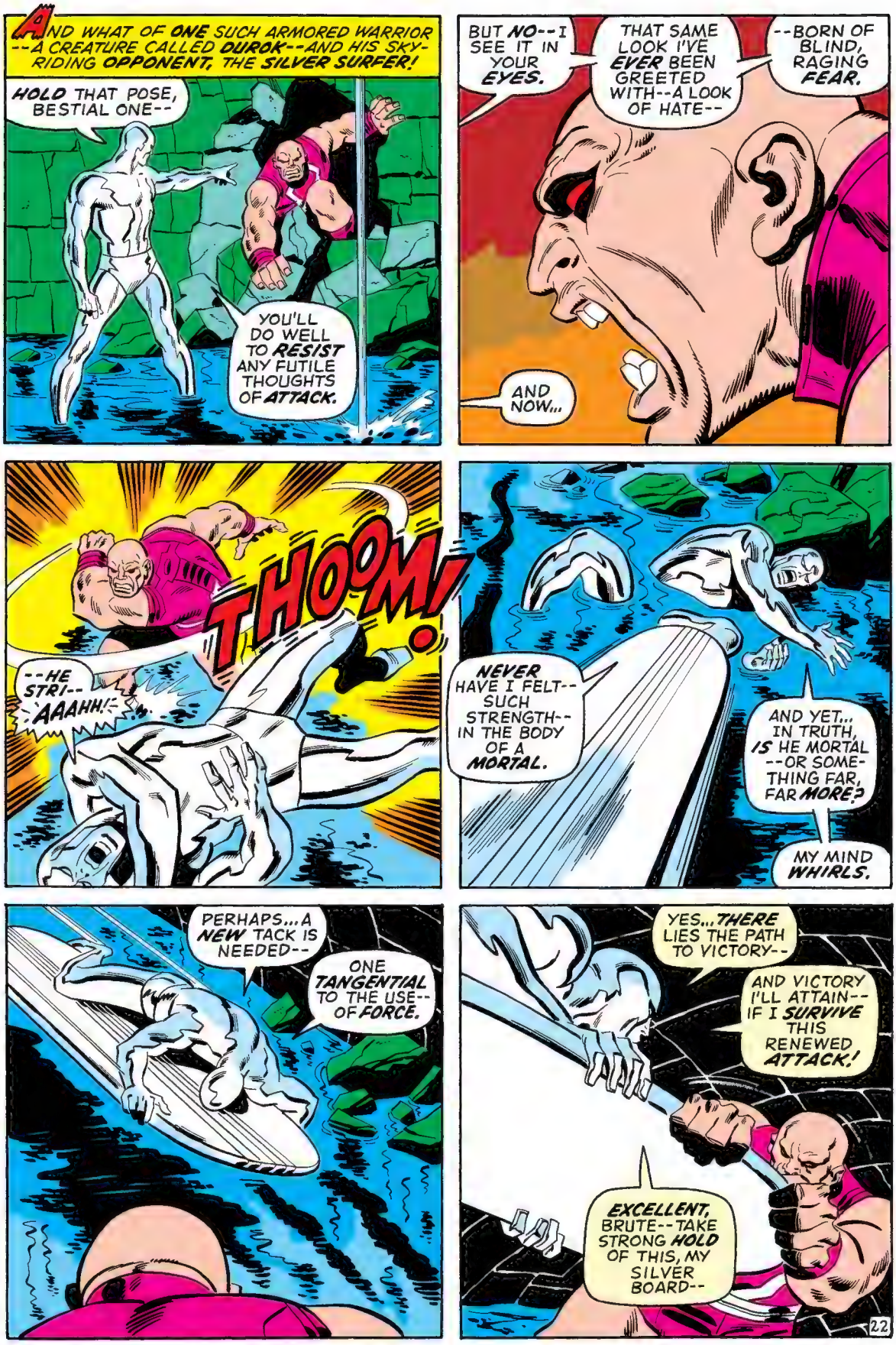
--I WHOSE BOARD HOLDS DUROK AT BAY!
LOOK AT HIM, AGAINST ALL SANITY-- HE STILL BATTLES.
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE IS HE?
NO LIVING CREATURE HE--BUT A CONSTRUCT OF LORD LOKI'S STOLEN RING.
HIS SOLE PURPOSE... IS TO BATTLE--
TO BATTLE-- AND DESTROY!
FOR IN TRUTH--HE DOTH BE INDEED--
--DUROK THE DEMOLISHER!
AT THE SOUND OF HIS NAME THE CREATURE SNARLS, HIS BODY TWISTING WITH RENEWED EFFORT--
...EFFORT MOST FUTILE, IT SEEMS--!
GONE!
HE IS MAD! HE IS MAD!
NAY, HE IS-- BUT WHAT HE IS.
HE CAN BE ...NO MORE.
BUT--WHAT DOST THOU DO NOW?
MINE IS THE FIGHT, THUNDER GOD--
YOUR DUTY LIES ELSEWHERE, NOW-- 'GAINST YOUR HALF-BROTHER...
...IN ASGARD!
LEAVE ME, THOR.
THE SURFER-- WILL PREVAIL.
YEA--NOW BE I TRULY FREED.
'TILL THOU CAME, I WAS BOUND BY MY OATH. BUT NOW--
17

--THOR MEETS LOKI--AND FROM THAT MEETING--
--THE FATE OF ASGARD, AND YEA--
--THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE AS WELL--
--WILL NEEDS BE TOLD!
AGAINST THE EBON SKY-- A STREAK OF GOLDEN LIGHT.
'TIS THE MOMENT I HAVE DREADED--
--WHEN HEIMDAL MUST STRIKE 'GAINST THOR.
HO, THUNDER GOD--IF FRIENDS WE ART TO REMAIN--
--HOLD THY PACE--AND STEP NOT UPON THE RAINBOW BRIDGE.
WHAT WORDS ARE THESE, WATCH-KEEPER?
WORDS MOST PAINFUL, THOR.
BY THE POWER OF HIS ODIN-RING, LOKI HAST ORDERED ALL OF ASGARD TO ARM AGAINST THEE.
AND WHAT OF THEE, BOLD HEIMDAL?
THOUGH IT DOTH CAUSE ME AGONY-- I MUST OBEY MY NEW LEIGE.
HE HOLDS THE ODIN-RING... AND THUS, HIS WORD BE LAW.
THEN--WE MUST BE ENEMIES SWORN!
IF SO--
18

--I MUST ATTACK!
HEIMDAL-- I SAY THEE NAY!
THOU HAST BEEN ALMOST A BROTHER TO ME.
YET... IF 'TIS BATTLE YOU WISH--
--THEN 'TIS BATTLE YOU'LL GAIN!
IT--MOVES LIKE A DEMON WHIRLWIND!
YEA-- FOR SUCH IS THE SACRED METAL URU!
THHOOOR!
SWOO
NOW DOTH IT SEND THEE FROM MY SIGHT--
THEE WHO WERE MY FRIEND--
--AND SOUGHT-- TO BE MY BETRAYER!
TO MY HAND DOTH THE MALLET RETURN.
AND TO HIS DOOM DOTH HEIMDAL FALL-- BUT HOLD...
WHAT MADNESS BE THIS THAT FILLS MY VEINS?
IS THIS HOW THE THUNDER GOD WILL END?
I BECOME LIKE LOKI-- LETTING RAGE STEAL THE VERY SANITY FROM MY MIND.
NO BETTER THAN HIS ENEMIES?
19


NEVER!
NOT FOR THIS DID I EARN THE MYSTIC MJOLNIR!
NOT FOR THIS HAVE I BRAVED A THOUSAND THOUSAND BATTLES!
THOUGH ALL DO SEEK TO SLAY ME--
--THE THUNDER GOD MUST HIS MERCY RETAIN!
FEAR NOT, BOLD HEIMDAL--THIS BE NO ATTACK--BUT A SAVING.
BEYOND ALL ELSE--
--THOU ART MY FRIEND.
FORGIVE ME, LORD--I BUT DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.
FORGIVEN, FRIEND. THESE ARE TRULY HARSH DAYS--
--WHEN FRIEND FIGHTS FRIEND--
--AND FOE OF ALL DOTH RULE--IN THE PALACE ROYAL.
YET SOON, LOKI WILL RULE--NO MORE.
...OR THOR... BE DEAD.
20

THEN DEAD SHALL YOU BE, THUNDER GOD--FOR, EVEN AS YOUR BROAD STRIDE QUICKENS, DESTINY TAKES YET ANOTHER TURN AGAINST YOU...
...AS, IN THE SHADOW DUSK ABOVE THE TRIPLE SPIRES OF THE GOLDEN CITY--THREE MASSIVE SHAPES MATERIALIZE...
SHAPES YOU RECOGNIZE TO BE-- STORM GIANTS!
BROTHERS--UPON YONDER SILVER ROADWAY, I SEE A GROVELING GNAT--
AYE,..AND WHAT A BUG, MY BROTHERS--
LOOK YE UPON HIM-- DO YOU NOT SEE?
LORDS! 'TWAS A BENEVOLENT GOD WHO BROUGHT US HERE--TO STRIKE DOWN THE SON OF HATED ODIN-- THOR!
FATES! HEIMDAL-- DO MINE EYES DECEIVE ME?
'TIS ALL TRUE, MI'LORD--
LOKI HATH ARMED ALL ...ALL AGAINST THEE!
21

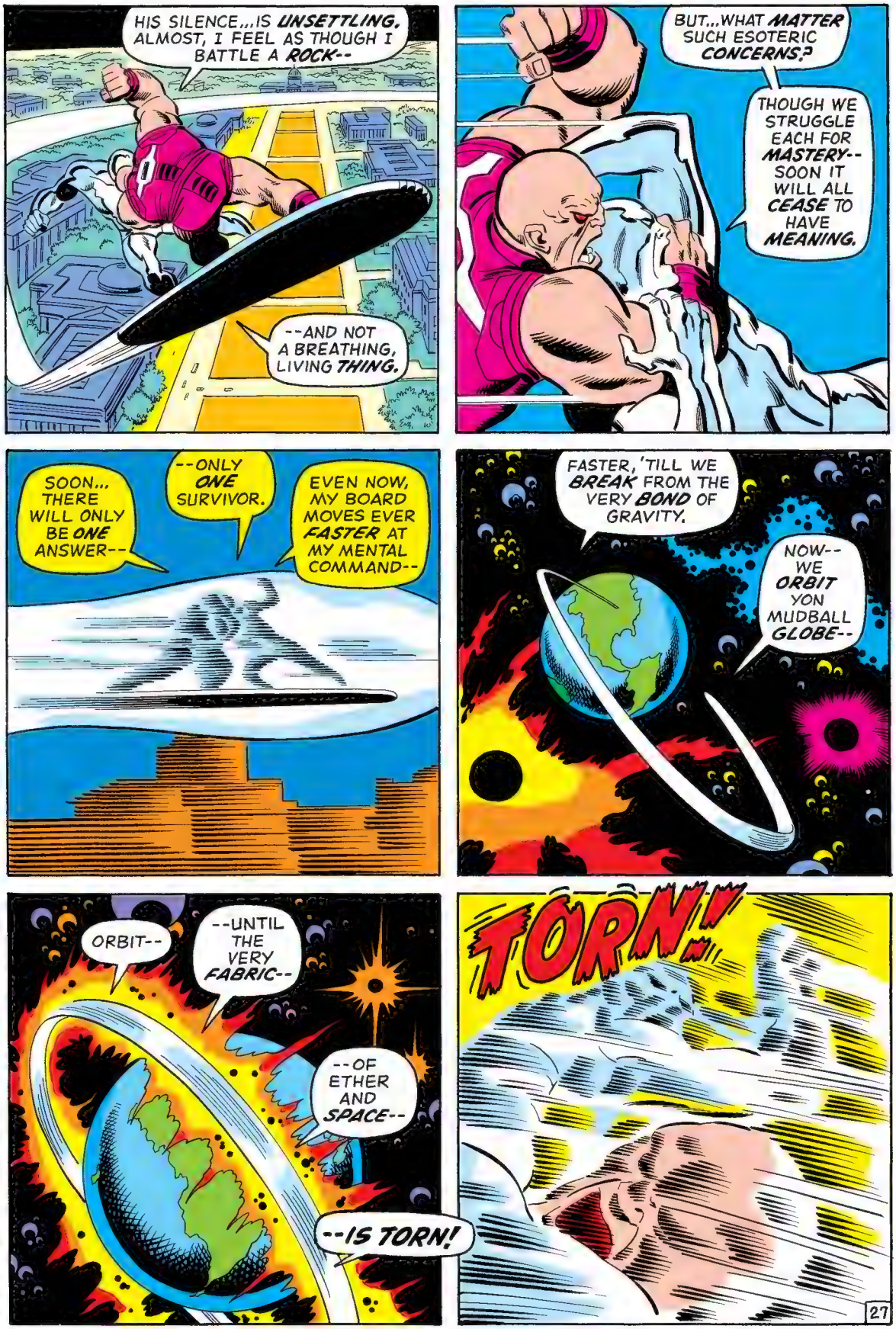

AND WHAT OF ONE SUCH ARMORED WARRIOR --A CREATURE CALLED DUROK--AND HIS SKY-RIDING OPPONENT, THE SILVER SURFER!
HOLD THAT POSE, BESTIAL ONE--
YOU'LL DO WELL TO RESIST ANY FUTILE THOUGHTS OF ATTACK.
BUT NO--I SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.
THAT SAME LOOK I'VE EVER BEEN GREETED WITH--A LOOK OF HATE--
--BORN OF BLIND, RAGING FEAR.
AND NOW...
THOOM!
--HE STRI--
AAAHH!--
NEVER HAVE I FELT--SUCH STRENGTH--IN THE BODY OF A MORTAL.
AND YET... IN TRUTH, IS HE MORTAL --OR SOMETHING FAR, FAR MORE?
MY MIND WHIRLS.
PERHAPS... A NEW TACK IS NEEDED--
ONE TANGENTIAL TO THE USE--OF FORCE.
YES... THERE LIES THE PATH TO VICTORY--
AND VICTORY I'LL ATTAIN--IF I SURVIVE THIS RENEWED ATTACK!
EXCELLENT, BRUTE--TAKE STRONG HOLD OF THIS, MY SILVER BOARD--
22

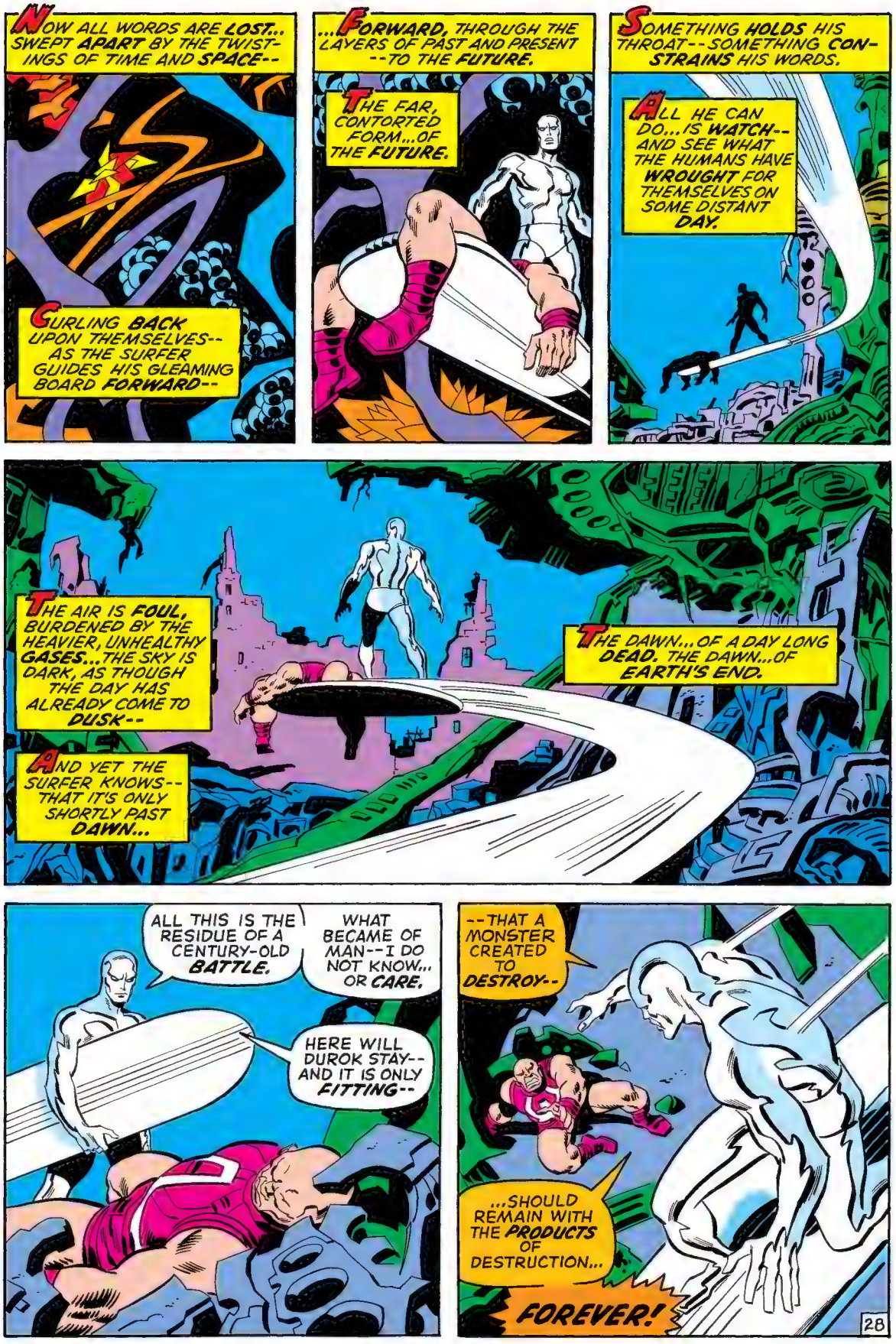
--TAKE STRONG HOLD, INDEED!
NOW, THE GAME IS MINE TO GUIDE.
THE ELEMENT IS MINE-- AND SO IS THE POWER.
SNARL ALL YOU WISH, MAN-BEAST... IT WILL BRING YOU NAUGHT.
I'VE A PLAN A-BORNING-- ONE WHICH WILL REMOVE YOU FROM THIS ALL-TOO-MORTAL SPHERE--
REMOVE YOU-- FOR ALL ETERNITY!
NO!
AHH, BUT FIRST YOU MUST GAIN THE FULLEST OF CONTROLS, SILVER ONE--
KLUMP!
LEST THE BRUTE ESCAPE--
AS HE MOST ADROITLY HAS!
HIS FINGERS TEAR THE VERY STONE!
HE HAS FOUND HIS MEANS OF SURVIVAL--
--WHILE I-- HAVE MINE.
I MUST MAINTAIN THIS STATE OF CALM--
--AND THUS USE HIS OWN STRENGTH... AGAINST HIM!
23

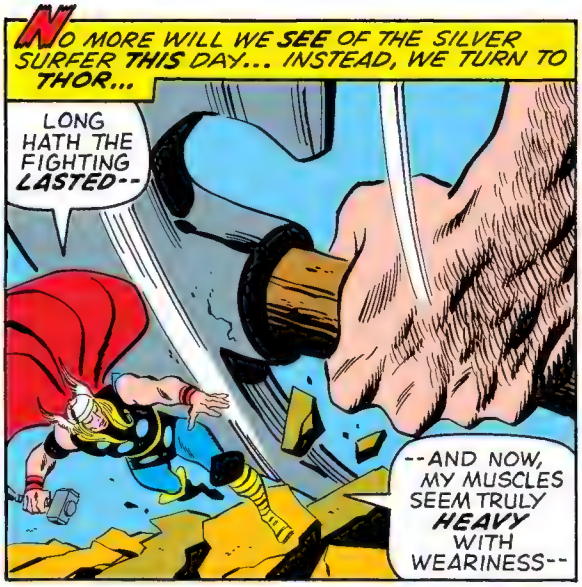
BUT...WILL I HAVE THAT CHANCE?
HE RETURNS AGAIN TO DESTRUCTION--
--WITH SINGLE, UNSWERVING, AND MINDLESS PURPOSE.
THEN, I MUST ATTACK!
THOUGH THEY HATE ME--THE HUMANS MUST NOT BE DESTROYED!
KSSSSS!
SO DO THE NOBLE FALL...
FOR THEY ARE EVER CAUGHT IN A TRAP OF THEIR OWN MAKING...
A TRAP--WALLED BY DUTY--AND LOCKED BY REALITY.
GAINST THE GREATER FORCE THEY MUST FALL--
...FOR, AGAINST THAT FORCE THEY FIGHT--BECAUSE OF DUTY...BECAUSE OF OBLIGATION.
AND WHEN THE NOBLE FALL--THE BASE REMAIN.
THE BASE...WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS THE CORRUPTION OF WHAT THE NOBLE DID PROTECT...
WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE...IS TO DESTROY.
TO DESTROY--

--AND DESTROY--
...AND DESTROY!
THE NOBLE: WHO, EVEN WHEN FALLEN, RETAIN A VESTIGE OF STRENGTH.
...FOR, THEIRS IS A STRENGTH BORN OF THINGS OTHER THAN MERE FORCE. THEIRS IS A STRENGTH SUPREME...
THEIRS IS THE STRENGTH...
...TO RESTORE.
TO ME, MOST FAITHFUL OF FRIENDS.
THE TIME FOR PLANNING IS PAST--
25

AND NOW, THOUGH IT PAINS ME, IT IS TIME--FOR THE DEEDS OF THE SURFER TO SPEAK.
BELOW... THE RAGINGS OF ENERGY UNLEASHED...!
THE HUMANS SEEK TO BATTLE DUROK--AND AS ALWAYS, THEIR ACTIONS ARE MOST FUTILE.
AHH-- NOW IT COMES CLEAR.
FOR, DUROK HOLDS THEM OFF--WITH BUT A WAVE OF HIS SIMMERING HAND.
SO... NOW THE PLAY IS SET--
--THE ACTORS MUST TAKE THEIR PLACES--
--THE CURTAIN IS DULY DRAWN--
--AND THE DRAMA PENULTIMATELY UNFOLDS.
GENTLY, DUROK. HOLD GENTLY.
26


HIS SILENCE...IS UNSETTLING. ALMOST, I FEEL AS THOUGH I BATTLE A ROCK--
--AND NOT A BREATHING, LIVING THING.
BUT...WHAT MATTER SUCH ESOTERIC CONCERNS?
THOUGH WE STRUGGLE EACH FOR MASTERY-- SOON IT WILL ALL CEASE TO HAVE MEANING.
SOON... THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE ANSWER--
--ONLY ONE SURVIVOR.
EVEN NOW, MY BOARD MOVES EVER FASTER AT MY MENTAL COMMAND--
FASTER, 'TILL WE BREAK FROM THE VERY BOND OF GRAVITY.
NOW-- WE ORBIT YON MUDBALL GLOBE--
ORBIT--
--UNTIL THE VERY FABRIC--
--OF ETHER AND SPACE--
--IS TORN!
TORN!!


NOW ALL WORDS ARE LOST... SWEPT APART BY THE TWISTINGS OF TIME AND SPACE--
CURLING BACK UPON THEMSELVES-- AS THE SURFER GUIDES HIS GLEAMING BOARD FORWARD--
...FORWARD, THROUGH THE LAYERS OF PAST AND PRESENT --TO THE FUTURE.
THE FAR, CONTORTED FORM...OF THE FUTURE.
SOMETHING HOLDS HIS THROAT--SOMETHING CONSTRAINS HIS WORDS.
ALL HE CAN DO...IS WATCH-- AND SEE WHAT THE HUMANS HAVE WROUGHT FOR THEMSELVES ON SOME DISTANT DAY.
THE AIR IS FOUL, BURDENED BY THE HEAVIER, UNHEALTHY GASES...THE SKY IS DARK, AS THOUGH THE DAY HAS ALREADY COME TO DUSK--
AND YET THE SURFER KNOWS-- THAT IT'S ONLY SHORTLY PAST DAWN...
THE DAWN...OF A DAY LONG DEAD. THE DAWN...OF EARTH'S END.
ALL THIS IS THE RESIDUE OF A CENTURY-OLD BATTLE.
WHAT BECAME OF MAN--I DO NOT KNOW... OR CARE.
HERE WILL DUROK STAY-- AND IT IS ONLY FITTING--
--THAT A MONSTER CREATED TO DESTROY--
...SHOULD REMAIN WITH THE PRODUCTS OF DESTRUCTION...
FOREVER!
28


NO MORE WILL WE SEE OF THE SILVER SURFER THIS DAY... INSTEAD, WE TURN TO THOR...
LONG HATH THE FIGHTING LASTED--
--AND NOW, MY MUSCLES SEEM TRULY HEAVY WITH WEARINESS--

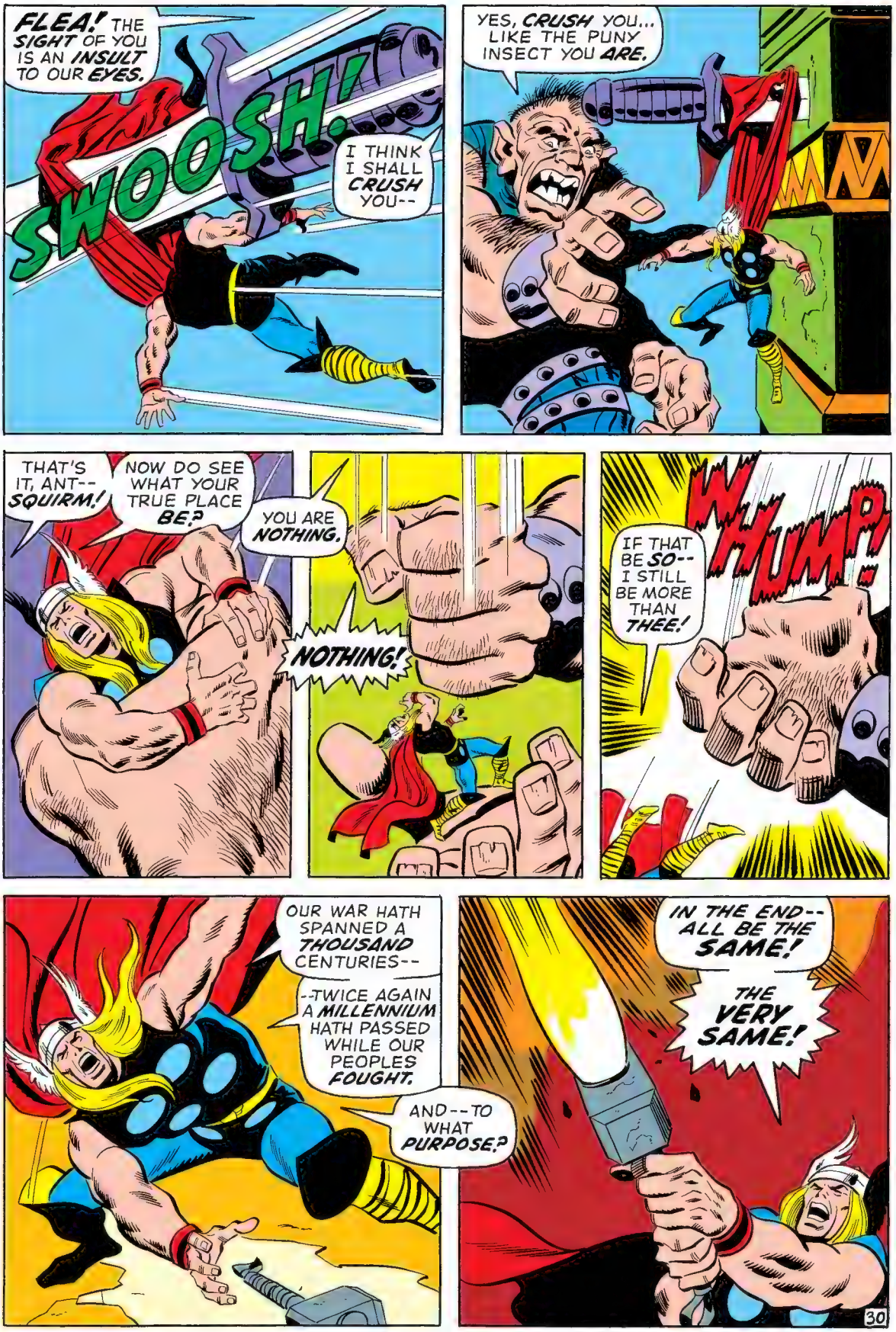
--BUT I AM THE SON OF ODIN--AND THOUGH MY BODY PLEADS FOR REST--
--TILL ENEMIES ARE DISPATCHED--
I WILL NOT SLEEP!

FOR ODIN!
FOR ASGARRRDDD!
CHUNK!

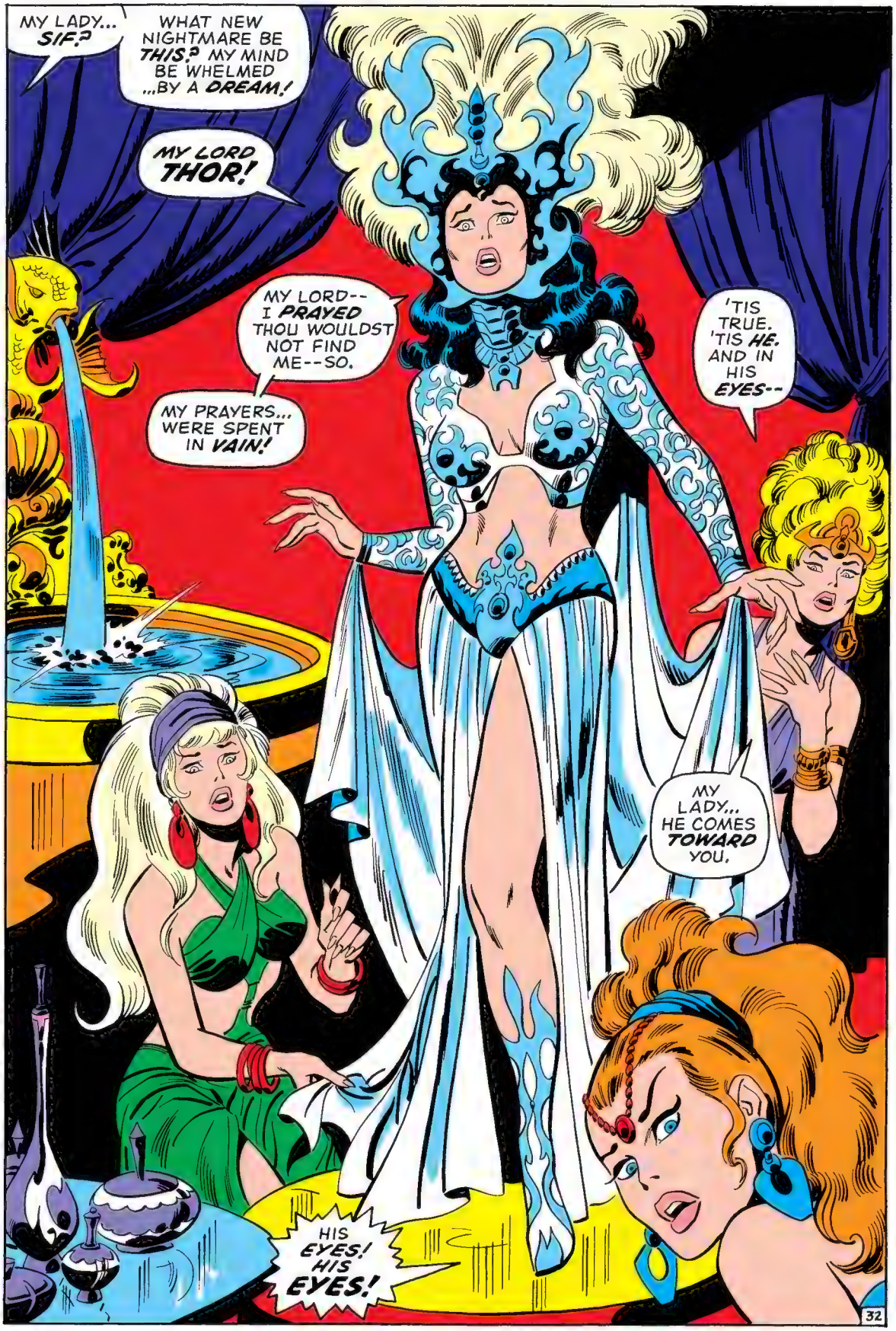
SO DOTH ONE FALL, YET STILL THERE BE MANY.
STILL MUST I BATTLE-- TO MY LADY'S SIDE.

MAKE NO CAREFUL PLANS, LITTLE ONE.
THIS DAY, YOU'LL END--AT THE SPEAR OF KAGGOR THE TALL!
MANY THANKS FOR YOUR NAME, FAT ONE...

THUNK!
KRAK!
FOR NOW I DO KNOW WHOSE SOUL TO COMMEND-- TO HELA.


FLEA! THE SIGHT OF YOU IS AN INSULT TO OUR EYES.
I THINK I SHALL CRUSH YOU--
SWOOSH!
YES, CRUSH YOU... LIKE THE PUNY INSECT YOU ARE.
THAT'S IT, ANT-- SQUIRM!
NOW DO SEE WHAT YOUR TRUE PLACE BE?
YOU ARE NOTHING.
NOTHING!
IF THAT BE SO-- I STILL BE MORE THAN THEE!
WHUMP!
OUR WAR HATH SPANNED A THOUSAND CENTURIES--
--TWICE AGAIN A MILLENNIUM HATH PASSED WHILE OUR PEOPLES FOUGHT.
AND--TO WHAT PURPOSE?
IN THE END-- ALL BE THE SAME!
THE VERY SAME!

ALL BE THE SAME...
...FOR ALL BE DEAD!
ALL, ALL-- DEAD.
WELL DO I SEE EVIL LOKI'S PLAN. HE SEEKS TO EXHAUST ME WITH ENDLESS BATTLE--
--AND HE HATH ALL BUT SUCCEEDED.
EVERY MOVEMENT BE A STRAIN TO MY SHOULDERS--
--EVERY STEP, AN AGONY TO MY CALVES.
YET...I MUST CARRY ON. FOR AM I NOT THE LAST OF ASGARD'S TRUE DEFENDERS?
IS NOT MY HAND-- THE ONLY ONE LIFTED 'GAINST LOKI'S LAW?
YEA, I BE A REBEL IN MY OWN FATHER'S HOUSE...
...A REBEL... FOR NONE WILL STAND... BESIDE ME.
--AND I HAVE HAD ENOW!
THROOM
LET HIM FACE ME. LET HIM PIT HIS STRENGTH 'GAINST MINE!
LOKI! IF THERE BE A MANLY BONE WITHIN THEE, THOR DEMANDS--
MY LADY...?
31


MY LADY... SIF?
WHAT NEW NIGHTMARE BE THIS? MY MIND BE WHELMED ...BY A DREAM!
MY LORD THOR!
MY LORD-- I PRAYED THOU WOULDST NOT FIND ME--SO.
MY PRAYERS... WERE SPENT IN VAIN!
'TIS TRUE. 'TIS HE. AND IN HIS EYES--
MY LADY... HE COMES TOWARD YOU.
HIS EYES! HIS EYES!
32

HIS EYES SHOW LOVE. PRINCELY LOVE.
HOLD ME, NOBLE THOR--TAKE NOT YOUR ARMS AWAY.
HOLD ME... LET ME REST IN THY STRENGTH.
ENOUGH. TELL ME WHAT THIS MEANS.
'TIS A BRIDAL GOWN THOU WEAREST--!
YEA...FOR I AM TO BE MAD LOKI'S BRIDE.
MAD?
WHAT WORD BE THIS FOR A BRIDE TO USE?
THE RENEGADE HATH RETURNED.
SHALL WE TAKE HIM, MASTER?
AHH... NOW IT ALL COMES CLEAR.
YEA, SIC THY DOGS UPON ME, FOUL BROTHER.
--'FORE I LET THY HAND TOUCH HERS.
I'LL FIGHT THEM ALL-- AND MORE--
THIS DAY HATH BEEN HARD--YET STILL THOR'S HAND BE FRESH TO FIGHT THEE--!
FOR ALL THOU HAST DONE--FOR ALL THOU HATH YET TO DO--
--WITH HAMMER IN HAND-- THOR WILL FIGHT!
THEN MUST THE HAMMER BE REMOVED, REBEL--
--AND THEE WITH IT!

THOOM!
MUCH THERE BE THAT THOU ART IGNORANT OF, BROTHER.
A NEW ORDER EXISTS IN THIS, THE UNIVERSE.
HEREAFTER, ONLY ONE WORD LIVES--
--AND THAT BE LOKI'S WORD.
THOU HAST SHOWN THY COLORS, REBEL. THOU HAST THREATENED THE ONE TRUE LAW.
AND BY THE POWER OF THE ODIN-RING...
I SENTENCE THEE...TO DEATH!
MILORD --NO!
DEATH!
FAIR SIF, THOU CRIEST TOO LATE.
HIS HAMMER GONE, IN BUT A MINUTE THOR BECOMES MORTAL ONCE MORE.
AND BY THEN--'TWILL ALL BE DONE! YOU--AND ALL OF ASGARD--WILL BE COMPLETELY MINE!
LOKI WILL BE TRULY--SUPREME!
STRANGELY SILENT, THE REVIVED STORM GIANTS GATHER CLOSER ABOUT THE PROSTRATE FORM BEFORE THEM, THEIR EYES GLOWING WITH A A MALICIOUS FIRE...AND FROM THE ROYAL BALCONY ABOVE, THERE COMES A FAINT, FADING, ALL-TOO-FEMININE SCREAM...!
NEXT: A CRY OF THUNDER

THOR
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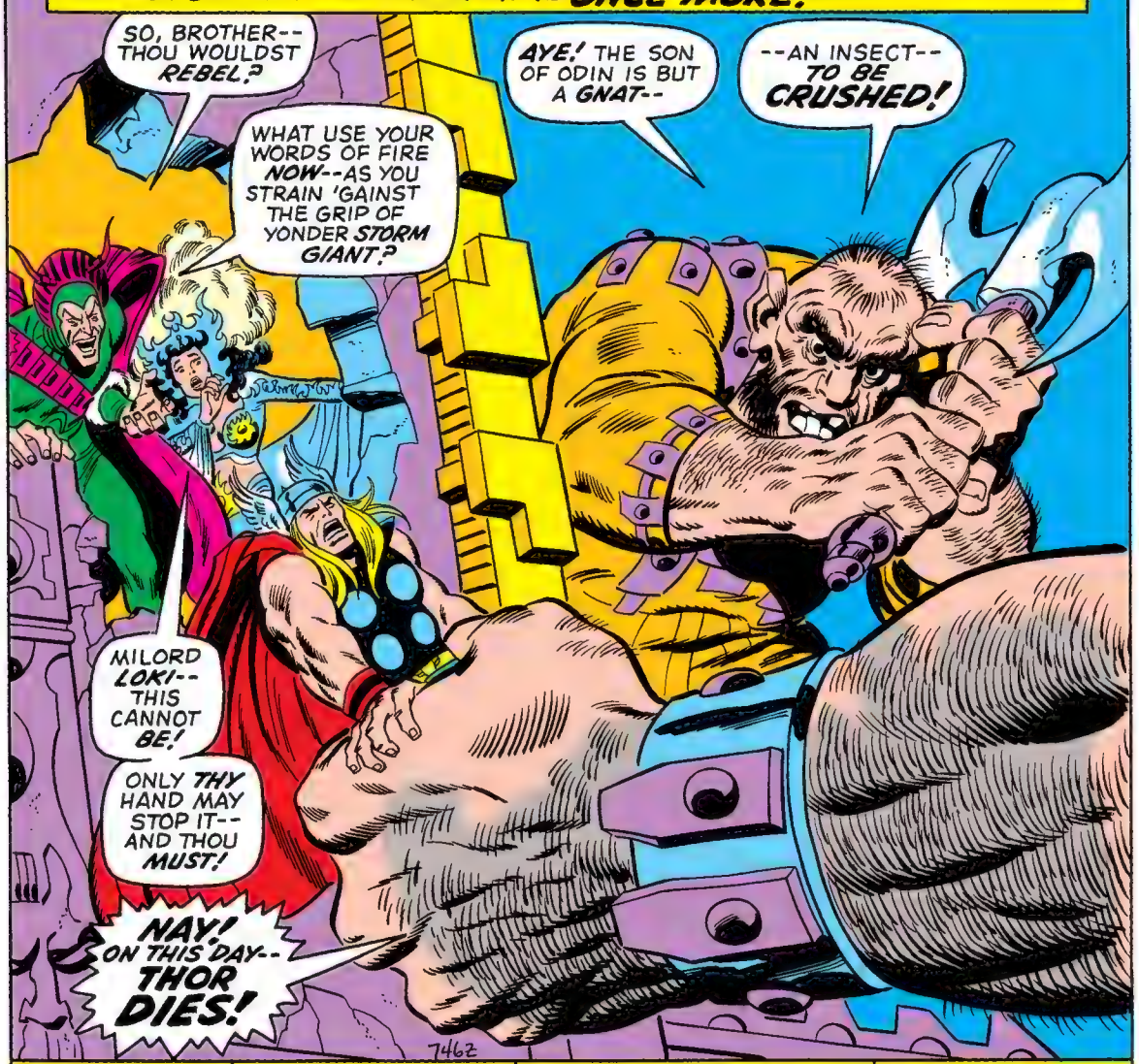
20¢
THE MIGHTY THOR™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ALL NEW! "THIS FATAL FURY!"
LOKI! I SAY THEE NAY! THOU SHALT NE'ER WED THE FAIR SIF--
--THOUGH THE LEGIONS OF ASGARD BE HURLED AGAINST ME!
LOKI TRIUMPHANT!

# THE MIGHTY THOR!™

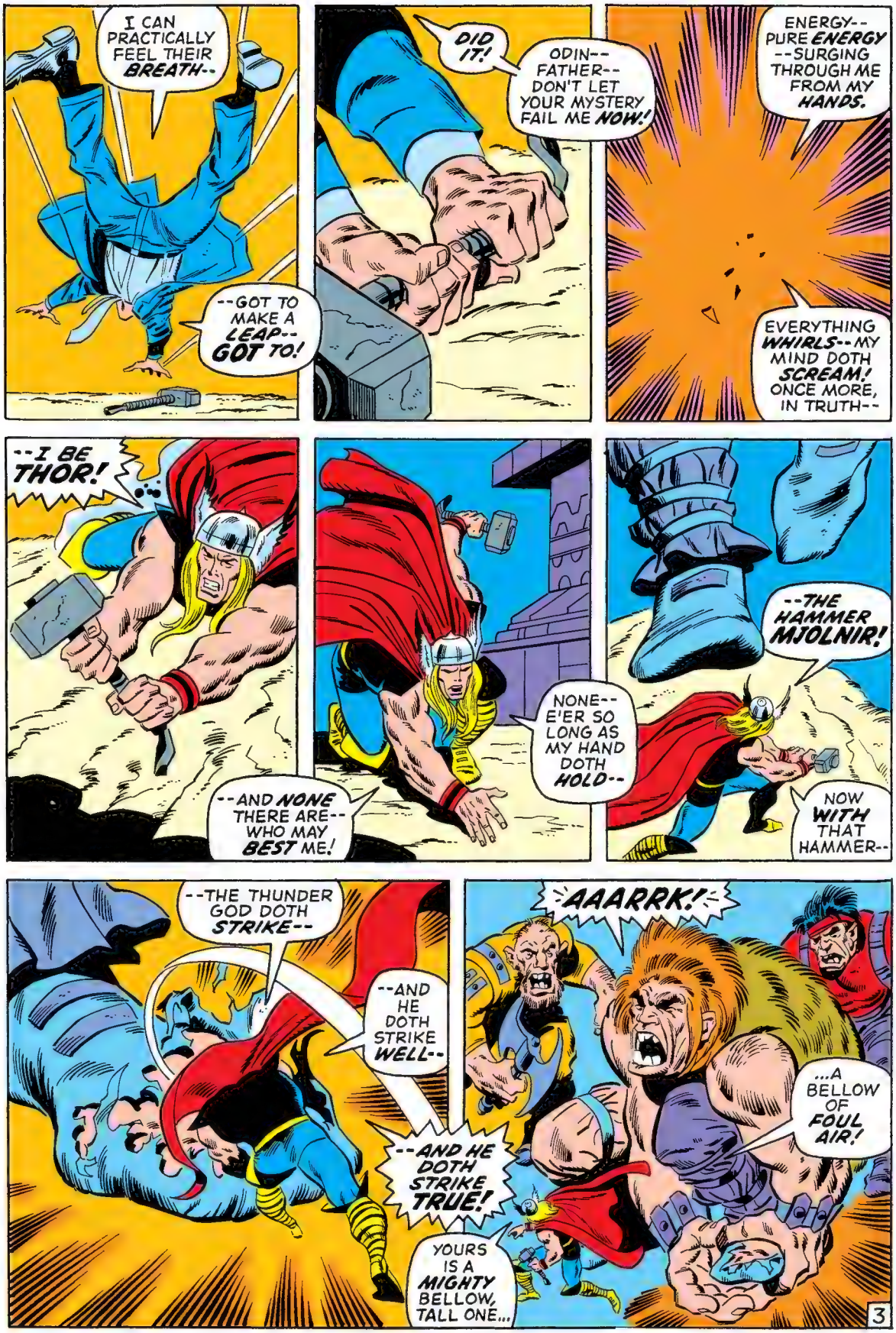
# THIS FATAL FURY!

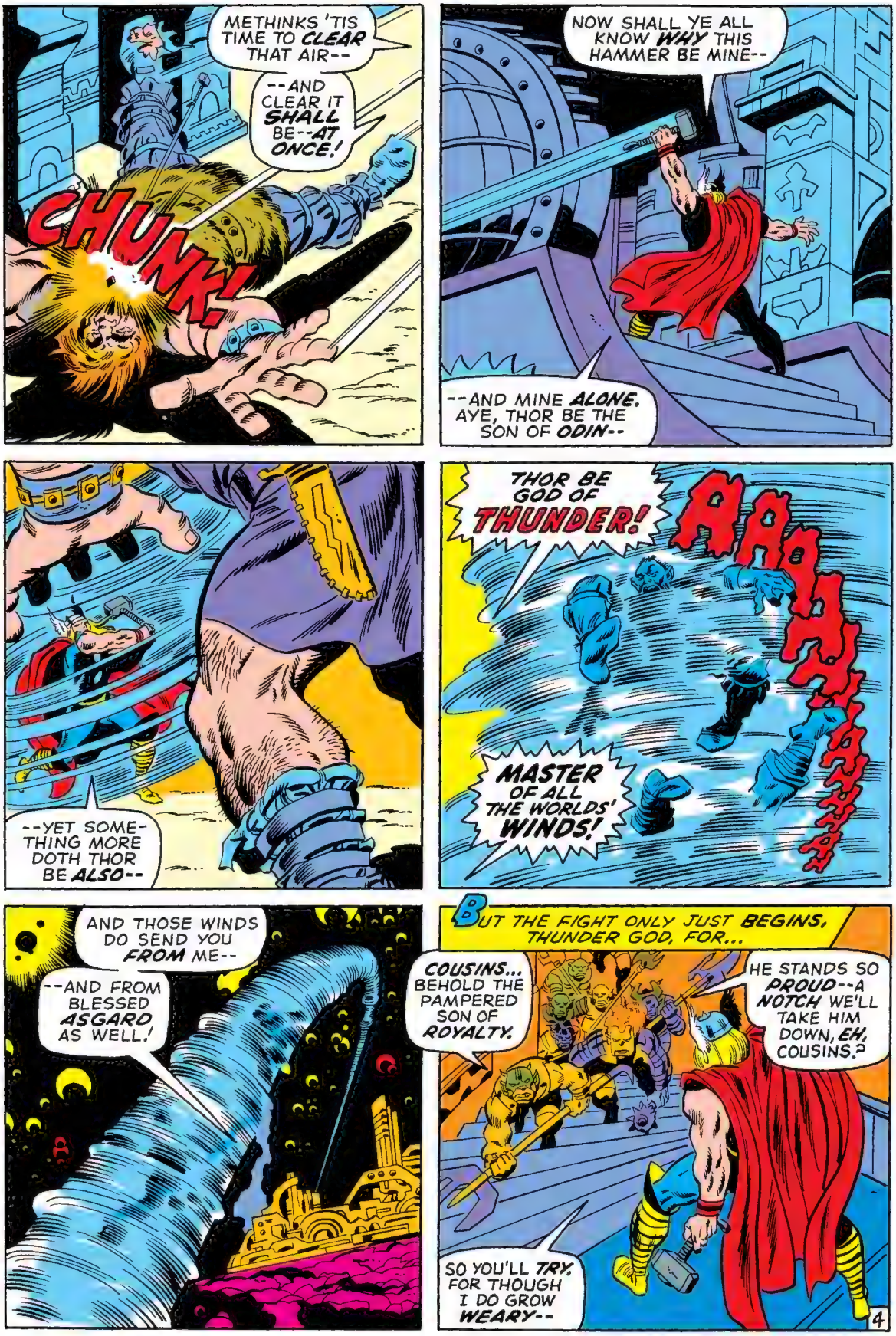
LOKI HATH THE ODIN-RING! ALL ASGARD DOTH TRULY TREMBLE--FOR WITH SAID RING, LOKI BE SUPREME! EVEN NOW, THE LAND'S LAST TRUE DEFENDER STRUGGLES WITH FADING POWER--POWER QUICKLY DRAINING, FOR THOR IS BEREFT OF HIS MYSTIC HAMMER--AND IN LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS, THE THUNDER GOD MUST BECOME MORTAL ONCE MORE!

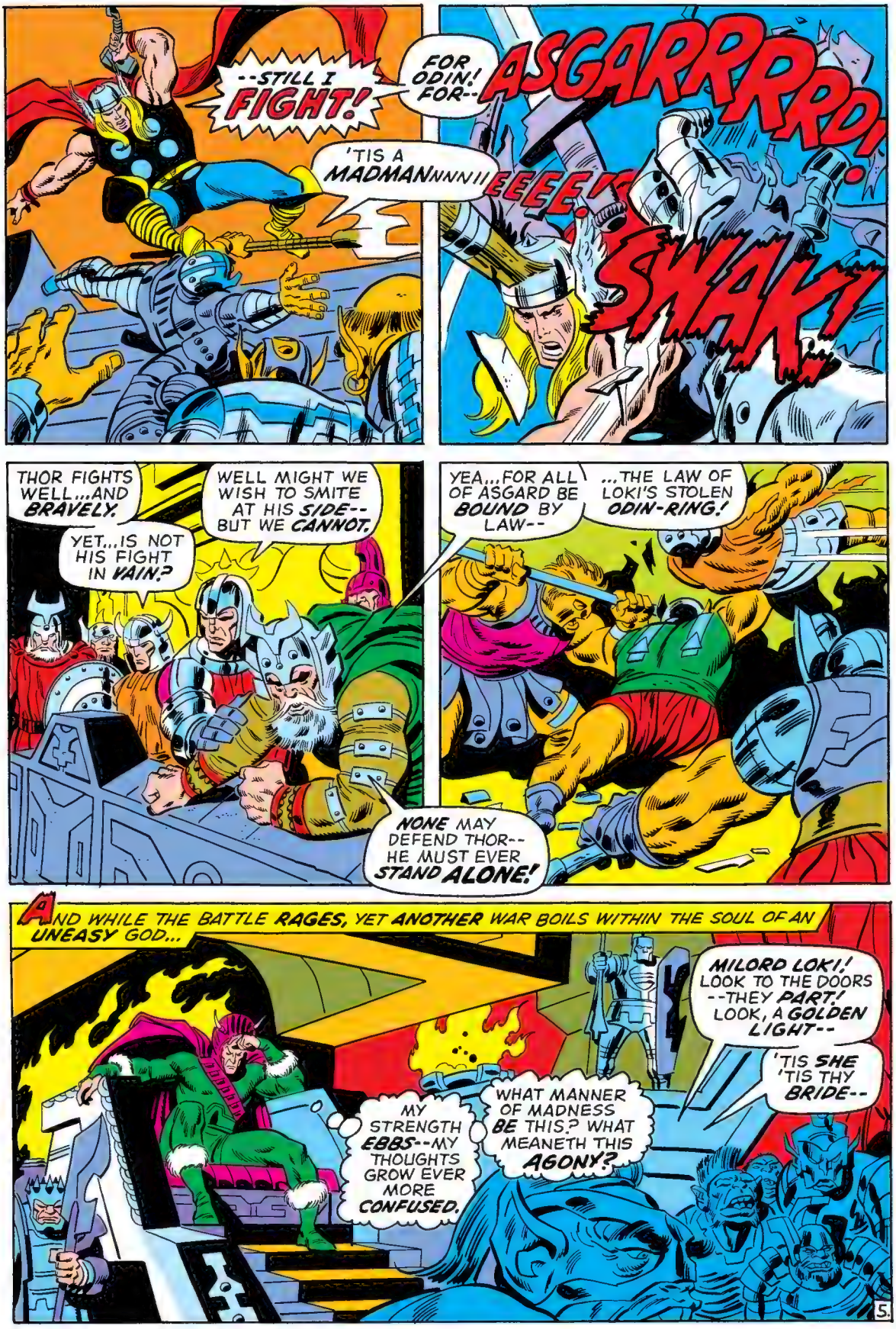

SO, BROTHER--THOU WOULDST REBEL?
WHAT USE YOUR WORDS OF FIRE NOW--AS YOU STRAIN 'GAINST THE GRIP OF YONDER STORM GIANT?
AYE! THE SON OF ODIN IS BUT A GNAT--
--AN INSECT--TO BE CRUSHED!
MILORD LOKI--THIS CANNOT BE!
ONLY THY HAND MAY STOP IT--AND THOU MUST!
NAY! ON THIS DAY--THOR DIES!
7462

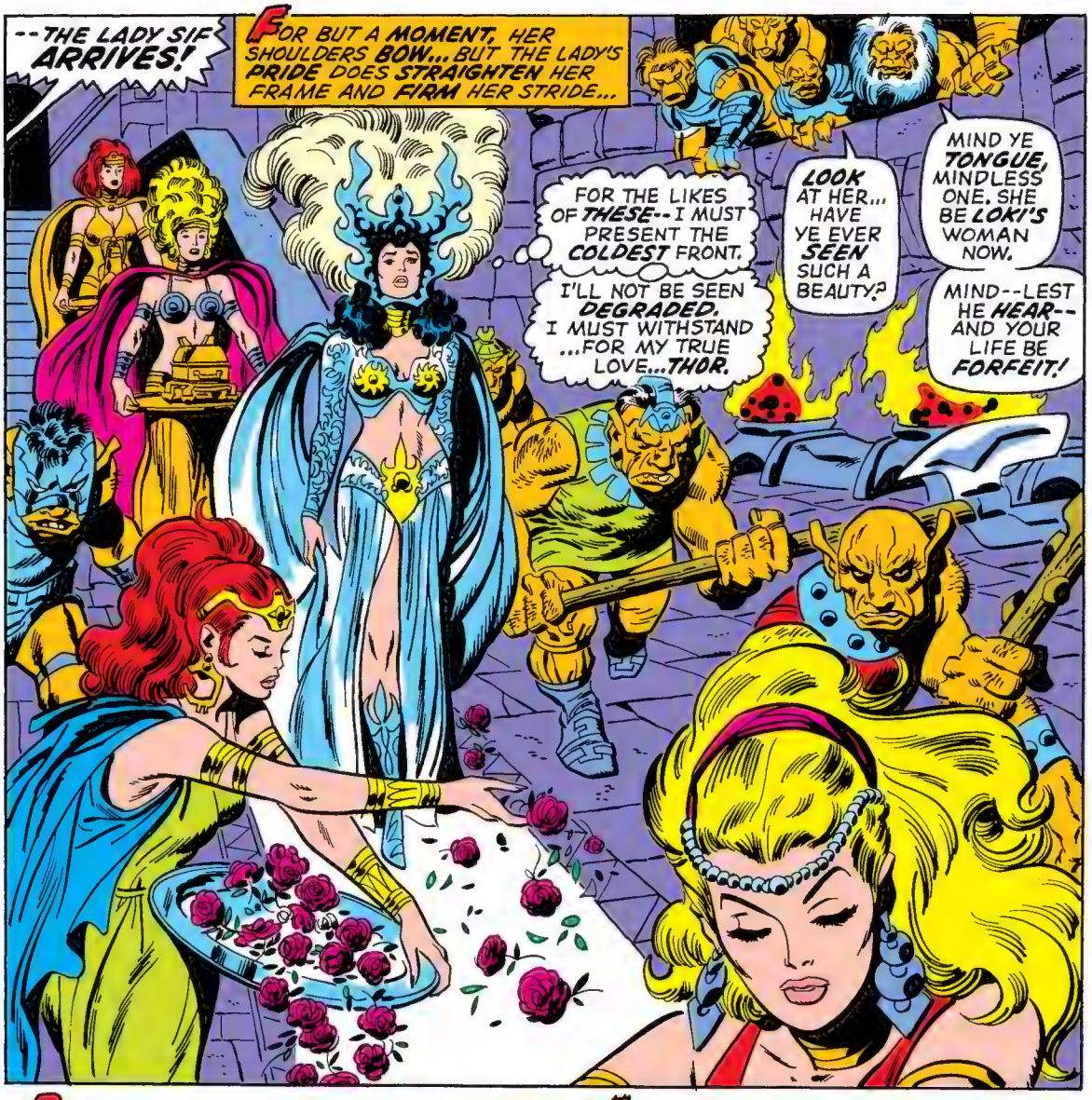
STAN LEE, EDITOR | GERRY CONWAY, WRITER | JOHN AND SAL BUSCEMA, ARTISTS | ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

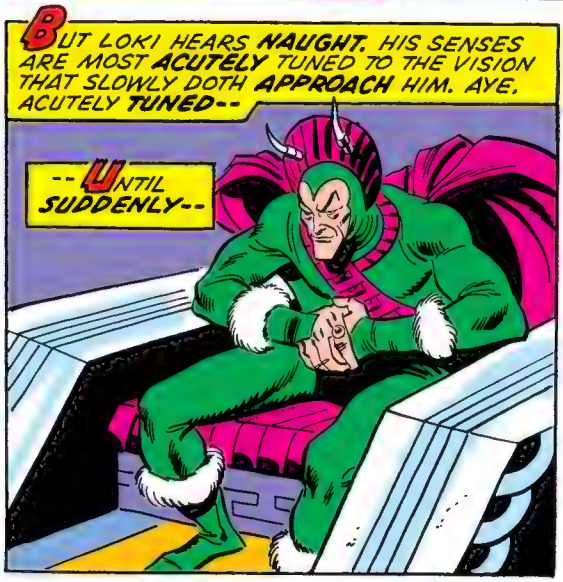
THY WORDS TOUCH MY HEART, FAIR SIF.
LET US BE AWAY-- THIS SIGHT BE NOT FOR TENDER EYES.
MILORD! I BEG OF THEE-- HAVE DONE!
CALM THYSELF, MY LADY. THY WORDS COME TO NAUGHT.
THOR MUST DIE--AS THOU THYSELF THIS DAY-- WILL BE MY BRIDE.
AND WHAT OF THOR? TIME DOTH SPEED QUICKLY--
ALREADY, I DO FEEL THE CHANGE APPROACHING.
A FIRE WELLS WITHIN ME, AND DOTH SET TO BURST--
ZA-NOW!
K!
IT'S HAPPENED! I'M DON BLAKE AGAIN!
THE SHOCK--THE POWER--MUST HAVE STARTLED THAT GIANT--
--FORCING-- HIM--TO RELEASE ME! BUT--I HAVEN'T TIME FOR THOUGHT--
THE GNAT-- HAS BECOME MORE THAN A GNAT!
'TIS A MORTAL!
I'VE GOT TO REACH THE URU HAMMER--OR BE KILLED!


I CAN PRACTICALLY FEEL THEIR BREATH--
--GOT TO MAKE A LEAP-- GOT TO!
DID IT!
ODIN-- FATHER-- DON'T LET YOUR MYSTERY FAIL ME NOW!
ENERGY-- PURE ENERGY --SURGING THROUGH ME FROM MY HANDS.
EVERYTHING WHIRLS-- MY MIND DOTH SCREAM! ONCE MORE, IN TRUTH--
--I BE THOR!
--AND NONE THERE ARE-- WHO MAY BEST ME!
NONE-- E'ER SO LONG AS MY HAND DOTH HOLD--
--THE HAMMER MJOLNIR!
NOW WITH THAT HAMMER--
--THE THUNDER GOD DOTH STRIKE--
--AND HE DOTH STRIKE WELL--
--AND HE DOTH STRIKE TRUE!
YOURS IS A MIGHTY BELLOW, TALL ONE...
AAARRK!
...A BELLOW OF FOUL AIR!
3

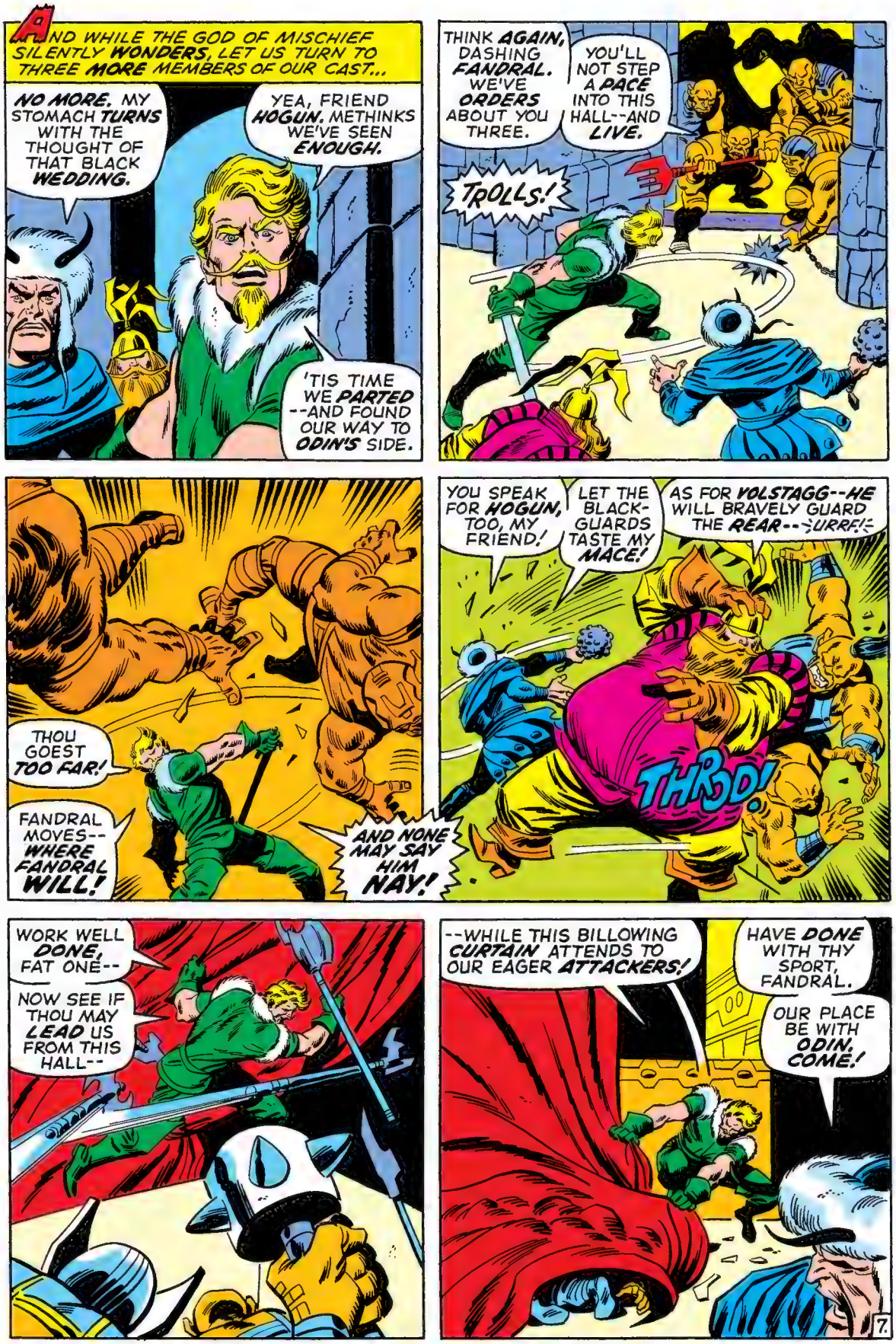

METHINKS 'TIS TIME TO CLEAR THAT AIR--
--AND CLEAR IT SHALL BE--AT ONCE!
CHUNK!
NOW SHALL YE ALL KNOW WHY THIS HAMMER BE MINE--
--AND MINE ALONE. AYE, THOR BE THE SON OF ODIN--
--YET SOMETHING MORE DOTH THOR BE ALSO--
THOR BE GOD OF THUNDER!
AAAAAAAAAA
MASTER OF ALL THE WORLDS' WINDS!
AND THOSE WINDS DO SEND YOU FROM ME--
--AND FROM BLESSED ASGARD AS WELL!
BUT THE FIGHT ONLY JUST BEGINS, THUNDER GOD, FOR...
COUSINS... BEHOLD THE PAMPERED SON OF ROYALTY.
HE STANDS SO PROUD--A NOTCH WE'LL TAKE HIM DOWN, EH, COUSINS?
SO YOU'LL TRY, FOR THOUGH I DO GROW WEARY--
4


--STILL I FIGHT!
FOR ODIN! FOR--
ASGARRRRD!
'TIS A MADMANnnnnIIEEEE!
SWAK!
THOR FIGHTS WELL...AND BRAVELY.
WELL MIGHT WE WISH TO SMITE AT HIS SIDE-- BUT WE CANNOT.
YET...IS NOT HIS FIGHT IN VAIN?
YEA...FOR ALL OF ASGARD BE BOUND BY LAW--
...THE LAW OF LOKI'S STOLEN ODIN-RING!
NONE MAY DEFEND THOR-- HE MUST EVER STAND ALONE!
AND WHILE THE BATTLE RAGES, YET ANOTHER WAR BOILS WITHIN THE SOUL OF AN UNEASY GOD...
MILORD LOKI! LOOK TO THE DOORS --THEY PART! LOOK, A GOLDEN LIGHT--
'TIS SHE 'TIS THY BRIDE--
WHAT MANNER OF MADNESS BE THIS? WHAT MEANETH THIS AGONY?
MY STRENGTH EBBS--MY THOUGHTS GROW EVER MORE CONFUSED.
5.


--THE LADY SIF ARRIVES!
FOR BUT A MOMENT, HER SHOULDERS BOW... BUT THE LADY'S PRIDE DOES STRAIGHTEN HER FRAME AND FIRM HER STRIDE...
FOR THE LIKES OF THESE--I MUST PRESENT THE COLDEST FRONT.
I'LL NOT BE SEEN DEGRADED. I MUST WITHSTAND ...FOR MY TRUE LOVE...THOR.
LOOK AT HER... HAVE YE EVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTY?
MIND YE TONGUE, MINDLESS ONE. SHE BE LOKI'S WOMAN NOW.
MIND--LEST HE HEAR-- AND YOUR LIFE BE FORFEIT!


BUT LOKI HEARS NAUGHT. HIS SENSES ARE MOST ACUTELY TUNED TO THE VISION THAT SLOWLY DOTH APPROACH HIM. AYE. ACUTELY TUNED--
--UNTIL SUDDENLY--

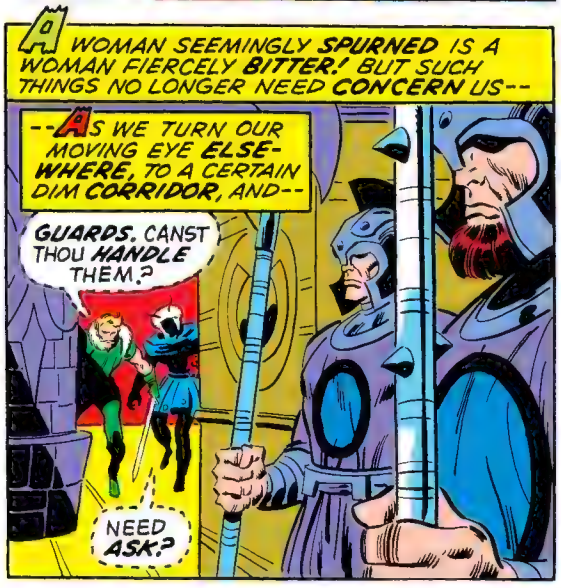
--A BLINDING PANG THRUSTS STRAIGHT INTO HIS HATE-BLACKENED SOUL.
AGAIN THE PAIN STRIKES. IT BECOMES WORSE EACH TIME! WHAT DOTH IT MEAN?
WHAT DOTH IT MEAN?


AND WHILE THE GOD OF MISCHIEF SILENTLY WONDERS, LET US TURN TO THREE MORE MEMBERS OF OUR CAST...
NO MORE. MY STOMACH TURNS WITH THE THOUGHT OF THAT BLACK WEDDING.
YEA, FRIEND HOGUN. METHINKS WE'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
'TIS TIME WE PARTED --AND FOUND OUR WAY TO ODIN'S SIDE.
THINK AGAIN, DASHING FANDRAL. WE'VE ORDERS ABOUT YOU THREE.
YOU'LL NOT STEP A PACE INTO THIS HALL--AND LIVE.
TROLLS!
THOU GOEST TOO FAR!
FANDRAL MOVES-- WHERE FANDRAL WILL!
AND NONE MAY SAY HIM NAY!
YOU SPEAK FOR HOGUN, TOO, MY FRIEND!
LET THE BLACK-GUARDS TASTE MY MACE!
AS FOR VOLSTAGG--HE WILL BRAVELY GUARD THE REAR--URRF!
THRD!
WORK WELL DONE, FAT ONE--
NOW SEE IF THOU MAY LEAD US FROM THIS HALL--
--WHILE THIS BILLOWING CURTAIN ATTENDS TO OUR EAGER ATTACKERS!
HAVE DONE WITH THY SPORT, FANDRAL.
OUR PLACE BE WITH ODIN. COME!

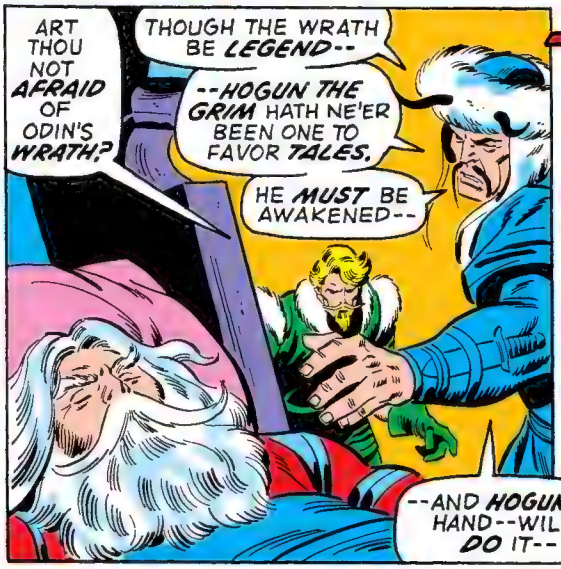
AND IN THE CENTRAL PALACE, THE DISTURBANCE GOES UNNOTICED, AS...
MILORD... MAY I NOT PLEAD WITH YOU...?
FOR THOR'S LIFE?
WHAT USE, WOMAN, EVEN AS WE SPEAK--
--THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST NOW LIE DEAD!
COME. YOUR PLACE IS AT MY SIDE!
NO SOONER SAID--THAN THE WORDS ARE SHATTERED BY A FAMILIAR CRY--
I SAY THEE NAY!
NOT WHILE I LIVE--NOT WHILE MY HAND THIS HAMMER HOLDS!
THOU!
THOU HAST SURVIVED I KNOW NOT HOW--
--YET THOU WILT NOT --MUCH LONGER!
WORDS, VILE ONE... MEANINGLESS WORDS THROWN 'GAINST ME!
COME DOWN FROM THY THRONE, BROTHER--
COME DOWN--AND BATTLE THOR!
YOU HEAR?
HE DARES CHALLENGE LOKI!
YEA!
THOOM!
'TIS A CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!
PREPARE THYSELF, BROTHER--FOR THY MOST TIMELY END!
WOULD THAT I COULD BUT GO TO HIM--!
--BUT I CANNOT. I AM SWORN--AGAINST HIM.
NAY, FAIR BALDER--NOT AGAINST THOR--
--THOU ART BUT SWORN TO ME.
'TIS NOT YOUR DOING THAT I BE ODIN'S FATED ENEMY--
--NOT YOUR DOING THAT I FIND YOU--ONE TO LOVE.
YEA...BUT IT IS MY PLEDGE, MILADY.
MY EVERLASTING SIN!
A SIN?
8

TELL ME THIS BE A SIN, MY LOVE.
SEARCH YOUR HEART--AND TELL ME TRULY.
ODIN SAVE ME ...I CANNOT!

THY LIPS ARE SWEET, MY QUEEN.
YET STILL MY SOUL IS HEAVY --FOR THIS BALDER KNOWS--
--HE BE TRAITOR-- EVERMORE!
THEN BALDER BE A FOOL!
--AND DOTH DESERVE HIS LOVELESS AGONY!


A WOMAN SEEMINGLY SPURNED IS A WOMAN FIERCELY BITTER! BUT SUCH THINGS NO LONGER NEED CONCERN US--
--AS WE TURN OUR MOVING EYE ELSE-WHERE, TO A CERTAIN DIM CORRIDOR, AND--
GUARDS. CANST THOU HANDLE THEM?
NEED ASK?

AND-- HERE, THIS BE THE CHAMBER FOR WHICH WE SEARCH.
WITHIN, THE ALL-FATHER DOTH SLEEP--
--A SLEEP NONE HATH EVER DARED DISTURB!
'TILL NOW, MY FRIEND.


ART THOU NOT AFRAID OF ODIN'S WRATH?
THOUGH THE WRATH BE LEGEND--
--HOGUN THE GRIM HATH NE'ER BEEN ONE TO FAVOR TALES,
HE MUST BE AWAKENED--
--AND HOGUN'S HAND--WILL DO IT--

--NOAAARGH!
AND THE VERY AIR ERUPTS, BOILING SUDDENLY OUTWARD--

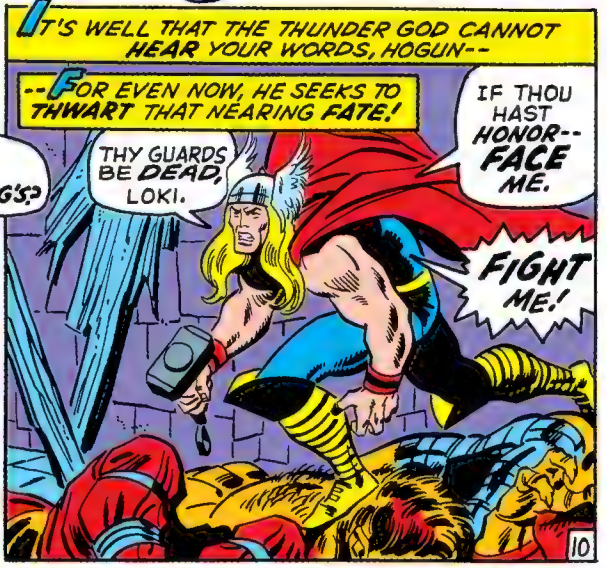
ZOUNDS! EVEN MIGHTY VOLSTAGG MUST NEEDS TURN HIS HEAD--
--FROM SUCH A SOUND! SUCH A SOUND!
WHO DARES?
NEVER DID I DREAM--!
FRIENDS, WHAT HAVE WE UNLEASHED?

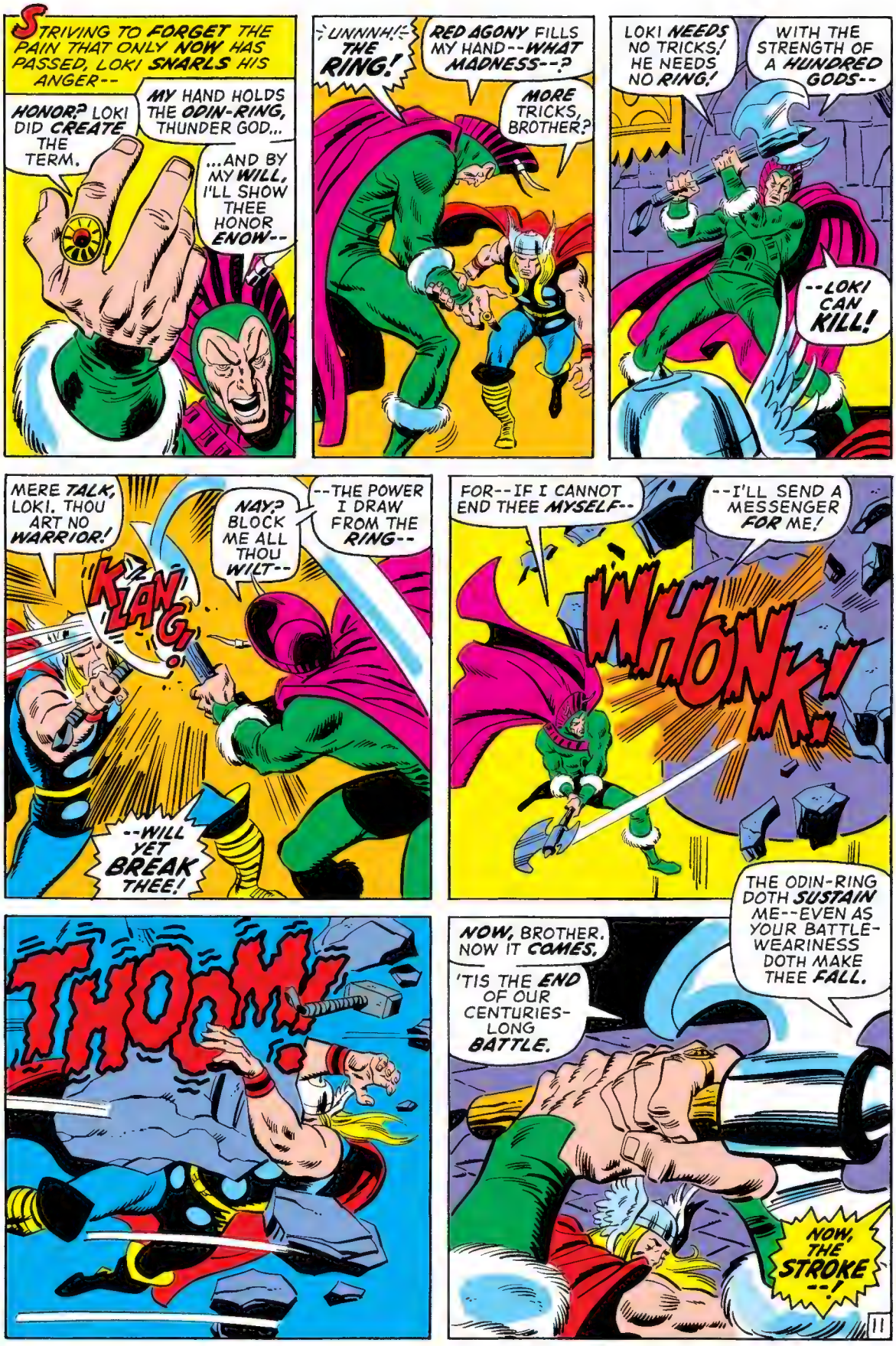
DARE ASK? THOU WOULDST CAST NEW BLASPHEMIES?
PRAY THAT THY PURPOSE IS GRAVE, FOOLISH ONES...
...MOST GRAVE, THAT THOU HAST AWOKEN ME TO HEAR IT!
ART DEAF? SPEAK!

ALL-FATHER... WE BUT SEEK THINE AID.
THOR FIGHTS A FAILING BATTLE--AND LOKI DOTH CLAIM THE LADY SIF!
WE BEG--THINE INTERCESSION!
SO.

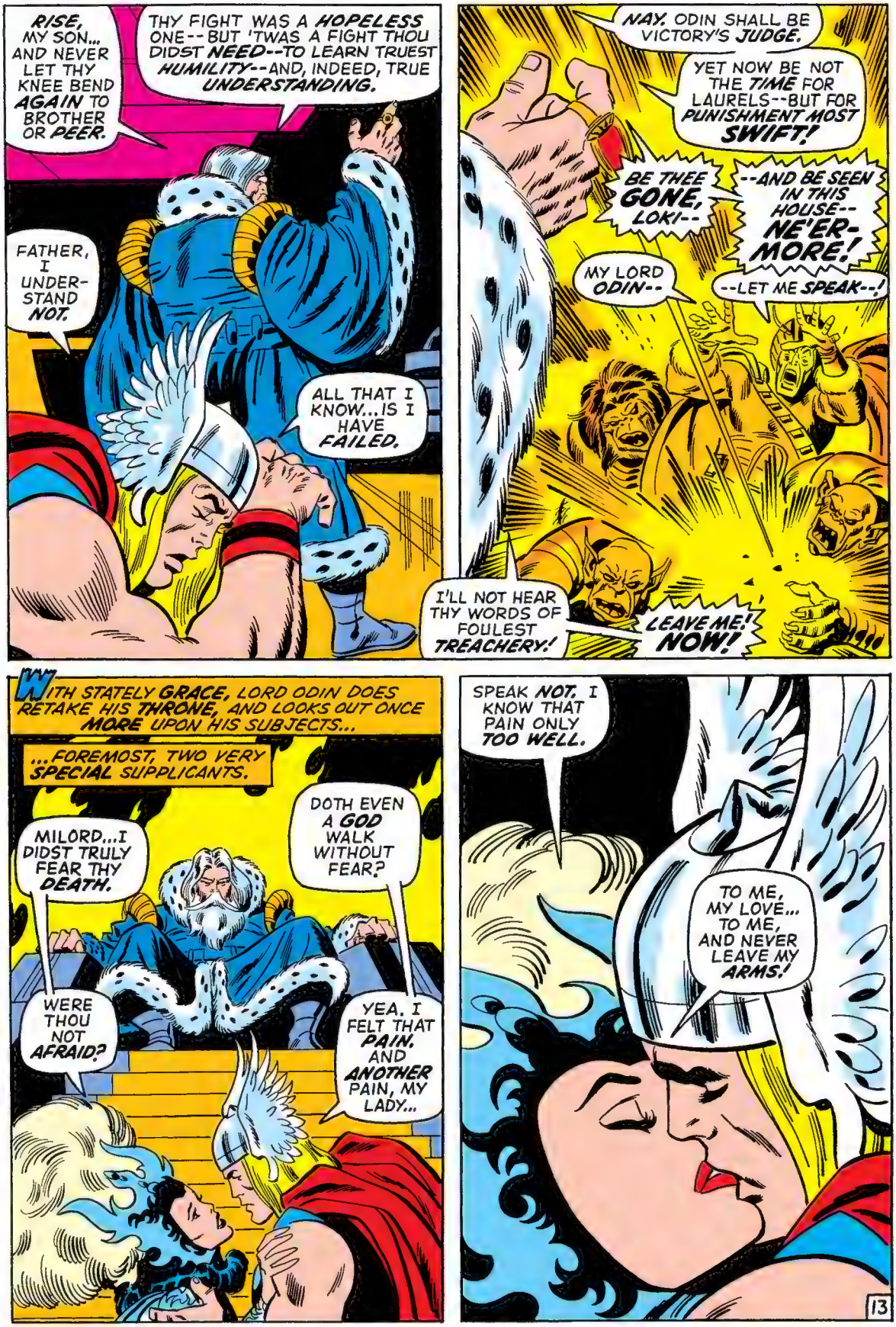
THOU DOST BEG IN VAIN, FANDRAL.
NOTHING WILL ODIN DO--NOTHING!
THOU HAST DISTURBED THE ODIN-SLEEP... FOR NAUGHT.
THOUGH THOR MAY FALL... MY HANDS BE TIED!

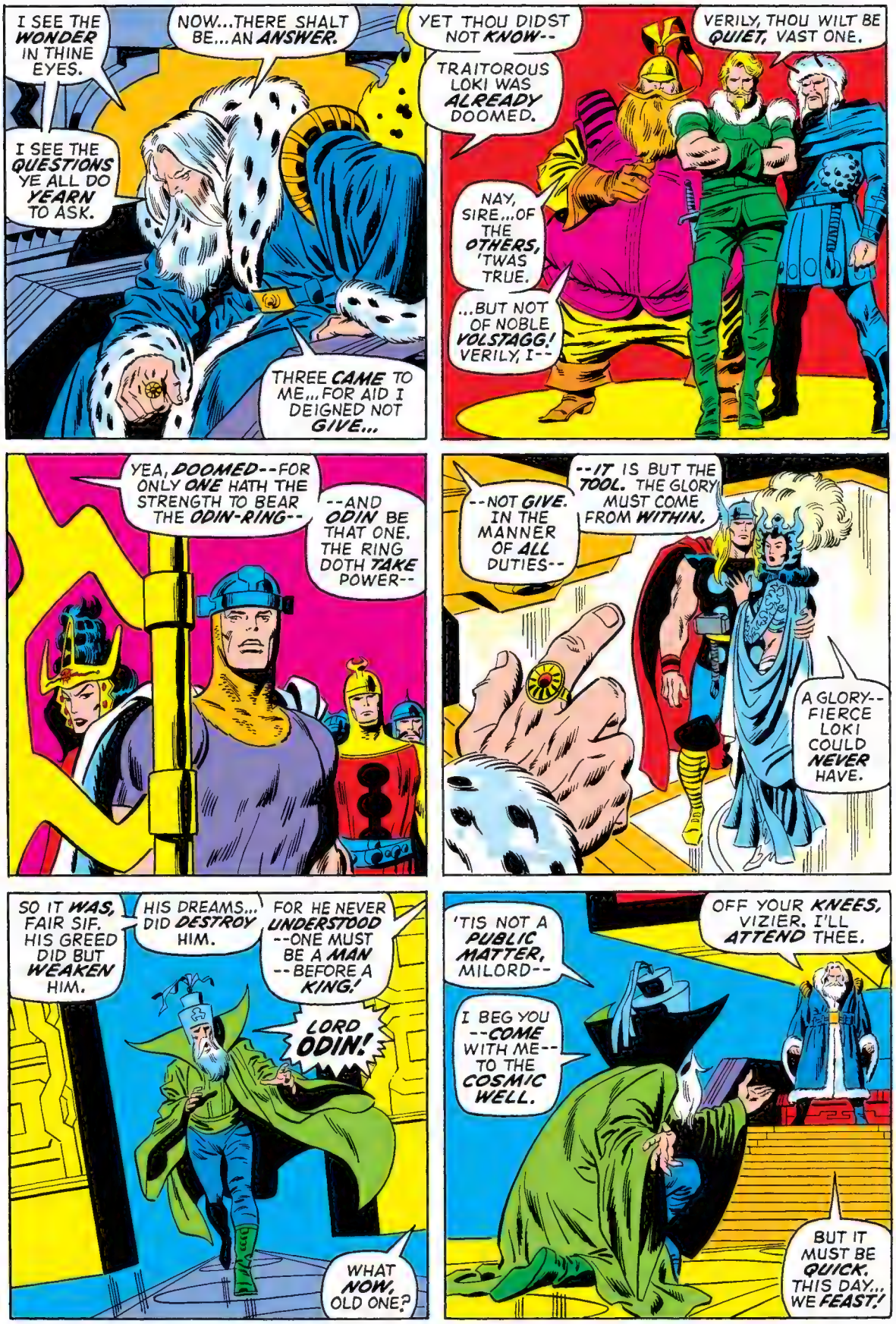
WHAT?
LORD ODIN--THOU CANNOT MEAN WHAT THOU DOST SAY!
PERHAPS OUR EARS BE YET STUNNED?
EVEN NOBLE VOLSTAGG'S?
NAY! 'TIS GHASTLY TRUE.
ODIN BE HELPLESS--AND WE ALL--STAND DOOMED!

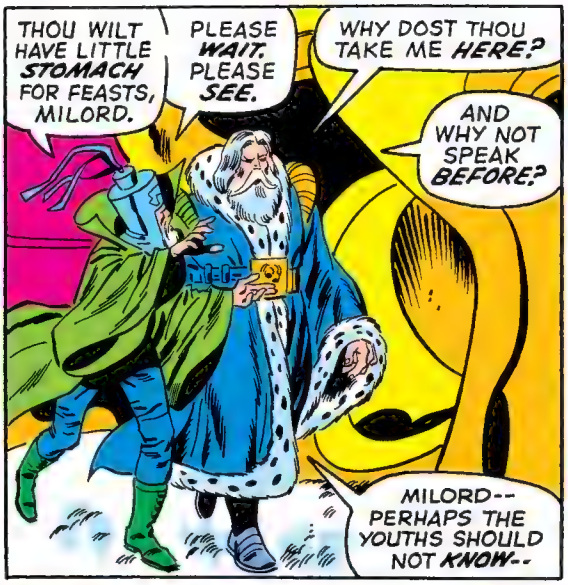

IT'S WELL THAT THE THUNDER GOD CANNOT HEAR YOUR WORDS, HOGUN--
--FOR EVEN NOW, HE SEEKS TO THWART THAT NEARING FATE!
THY GUARDS BE DEAD, LOKI.
IF THOU HAST HONOR--FACE ME.
FIGHT ME!

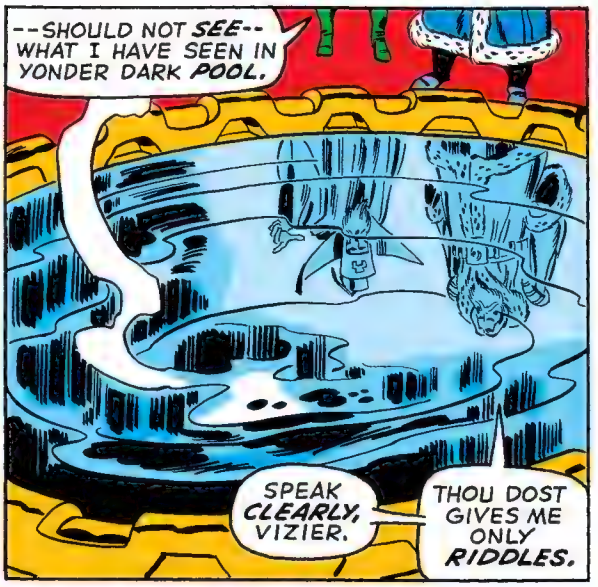

STRIVING TO FORGET THE PAIN THAT ONLY NOW HAS PASSED, LOKI SNARLS HIS ANGER--
HONOR? LOKI DID CREATE THE TERM.
MY HAND HOLDS THE ODIN-RING, THUNDER GOD...
...AND BY MY WILL, I'LL SHOW THEE HONOR ENOW--
UNNNH!-- THE RING!
RED AGONY FILLS MY HAND--WHAT MADNESS--?
MORE TRICKS, BROTHER?
LOKI NEEDS NO TRICKS! HE NEEDS NO RING!
WITH THE STRENGTH OF A HUNDRED GODS--
--LOKI CAN KILL!
MERE TALK, LOKI. THOU ART NO WARRIOR!
KLANG!
NAY? BLOCK ME ALL THOU WILT--
--THE POWER I DRAW FROM THE RING--
--WILL YET BREAK THEE!
FOR--IF I CANNOT END THEE MYSELF--
--I'LL SEND A MESSENGER FOR ME!
WHONK!
THOOM!
NOW, BROTHER. NOW IT COMES.
'TIS THE END OF OUR CENTURIES-LONG BATTLE.
THE ODIN-RING DOTH SUSTAIN ME--EVEN AS YOUR BATTLE-WEARINESS DOTH MAKE THEE FALL.
NOW, THE STROKE --!
11

LOKI, NO! I'LL BE THY BRIDE--I'LL DO WHAT THOU WILL!
BUT HARM HIM NOT! SPARE HIM, LOKI--
PLEEEASE!
THAT VOICE--
--ITS SUDDEN RINGING-- DOTH SHATTER MY CONCENTRATION!
WHAT MEANS THIS?
MINE EYES-- SUDDENLY CANNOT SEE!
THE RING! THE RING!
BUT HOLD-- MINE EYES SEE-- AND SEE TOO CLEARLY!
MY BODY DOTH GROW WITHERED-- AND THE PAIN DOTH INCREASE!
AIEEEEEE!
NOW DO I SEE! 'TIS ALL-- IN THE RING!
CURSED JEWEL-- THOU ART KILLING ME!
NOOOOO!
AWAY--GET THEE HENCE!
MY SOUL-- MY SOUL BURNS!
ALL DOTH END! GET IT AWAY!
GEM CLATTERS AGAINST STONE, SPARKLES AND SETTLES. ALL GROWS MOST SILENT...SILENT. AND THEN...
IT IS DONE.
THAT FOR WHICH I HAVE WAITED--
--HATH COME TO PASS!
ONCE MORE--
--THE RING IS ODIN'S RING. THE HAND--
--IS ODIN'S HAND. AND THE POWER... AND THE GLORY... BE ODIN'S ALONE!
ALL...AS I EXPECTED.

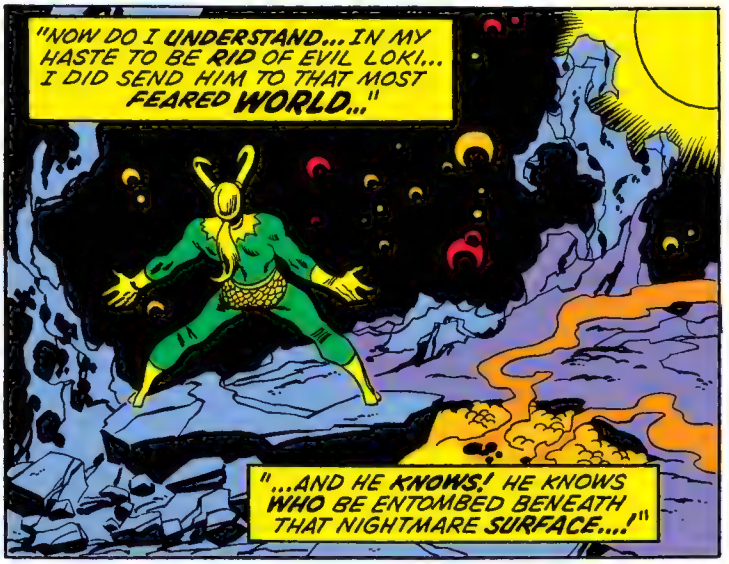

RISE, MY SON... AND NEVER LET THY KNEE BEND AGAIN TO BROTHER OR PEER.
THY FIGHT WAS A HOPELESS ONE--BUT 'TWAS A FIGHT THOU DIDST NEED--TO LEARN TRUEST HUMILITY--AND, INDEED, TRUE UNDERSTANDING.
FATHER, I UNDER-STAND NOT.
ALL THAT I KNOW...IS I HAVE FAILED.
NAY. ODIN SHALL BE VICTORY'S JUDGE.
YET NOW BE NOT THE TIME FOR LAURELS--BUT FOR PUNISHMENT MOST SWIFT!
BE THEE GONE, LOKI--
--AND BE SEEN IN THIS HOUSE-- NE'ER-MORE!
MY LORD ODIN--
--LET ME SPEAK--!
I'LL NOT HEAR THY WORDS OF FOULEST TREACHERY!
LEAVE ME! NOW!
WITH STATELY GRACE, LORD ODIN DOES RETAKE HIS THRONE, AND LOOKS OUT ONCE MORE UPON HIS SUBJECTS...
...FOREMOST, TWO VERY SPECIAL SUPPLICANTS.
MILORD...I DIDST TRULY FEAR THY DEATH.
DOTH EVEN A GOD WALK WITHOUT FEAR?
WERE THOU NOT AFRAID?
YEA. I FELT THAT PAIN, AND ANOTHER PAIN, MY LADY...
SPEAK NOT. I KNOW THAT PAIN ONLY TOO WELL.
TO ME, MY LOVE... TO ME, AND NEVER LEAVE MY ARMS!
13


I SEE THE WONDER IN THINE EYES.
NOW...THERE SHALT BE...AN ANSWER.
I SEE THE QUESTIONS YE ALL DO YEARN TO ASK.
THREE CAME TO ME,,, FOR AID I DEIGNED NOT GIVE...
YET THOU DIDST NOT KNOW--
TRAITOROUS LOKI WAS ALREADY DOOMED.
VERILY, THOU WILT BE QUIET, VAST ONE.
NAY, SIRE...OF THE OTHERS, 'TWAS TRUE.
...BUT NOT OF NOBLE VOLSTAGG! VERILY, I--
YEA, DOOMED--FOR ONLY ONE HATH THE STRENGTH TO BEAR THE ODIN-RING--
--AND ODIN BE THAT ONE. THE RING DOTH TAKE POWER--
--NOT GIVE. IN THE MANNER OF ALL DUTIES--
--IT IS BUT THE TOOL. THE GLORY MUST COME FROM WITHIN.
A GLORY--FIERCE LOKI COULD NEVER HAVE.
SO IT WAS, FAIR SIF. HIS GREED DID BUT WEAKEN HIM.
HIS DREAMS... DID DESTROY HIM.
FOR HE NEVER UNDERSTOOD --ONE MUST BE A MAN --BEFORE A KING!
LORD ODIN!
WHAT NOW, OLD ONE?
'TIS NOT A PUBLIC MATTER, MILORD--
I BEG YOU --COME WITH ME-- TO THE COSMIC WELL.
OFF YOUR KNEES, VIZIER. I'LL ATTEND THEE.
BUT IT MUST BE QUICK. THIS DAY... WE FEAST!

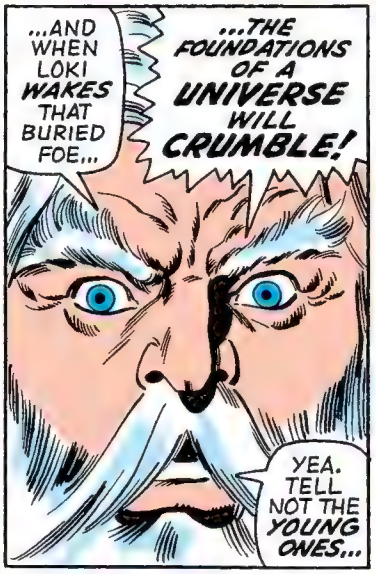

THOU WILT HAVE LITTLE STOMACH FOR FEASTS, MILORD.
PLEASE WAIT. PLEASE SEE.
WHY DOST THOU TAKE ME HERE?
AND WHY NOT SPEAK BEFORE?
MILORD-- PERHAPS THE YOUTHS SHOULD NOT KNOW--


--SHOULD NOT SEE-- WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN YONDER DARK POOL.
SPEAK CLEARLY, VIZIER.
THOU DOST GIVES ME ONLY RIDDLES.

LOOK, MILORD-- THE FACE OF LOKI--
--A FACE BROKEN WITH MIRTH. DOST THOU SEE WHY HE LAUGHS?
SUNS! WHAT HATH I DONE?


"NOW DO I UNDERSTAND... IN MY HASTE TO BE RID OF EVIL LOKI... I DID SEND HIM TO THAT MOST FEARED WORLD..."
"...AND HE KNOWS! HE KNOWS WHO BE ENTOMBED BENEATH THAT NIGHTMARE SURFACE....!"

YEA. LOKI LAUGHS... WITH GOOD REASON.
'TIS BUT A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE FINDS HIM...


...AND WHEN LOKI WAKES THAT BURIED FOE...
...THE FOUNDATIONS OF A UNIVERSE WILL CRUMBLE!
YEA. TELL NOT THE YOUNG ONES...

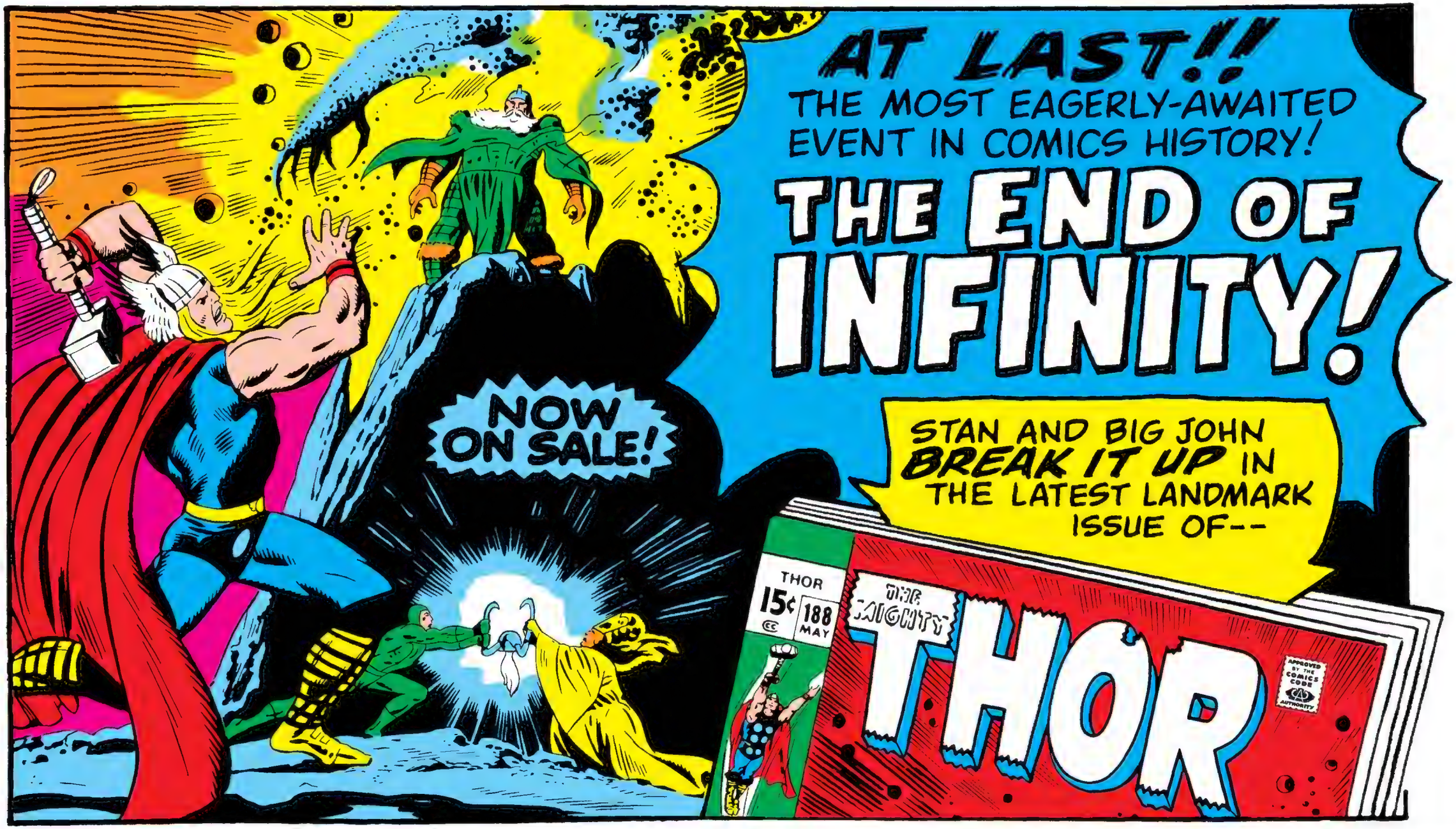
SOON ENOUGH, THEY WILL LEARN...
...ODIN HATH DAMNED ASGARD--
--HATH DAMNED US ALL!
NEXT: The WELL AT WORLD'S END!

Cover from 1971's *The Mighty Thor Annual* #3
(reprinting *Journey Into Mystery* #107-110, 113 & 114)

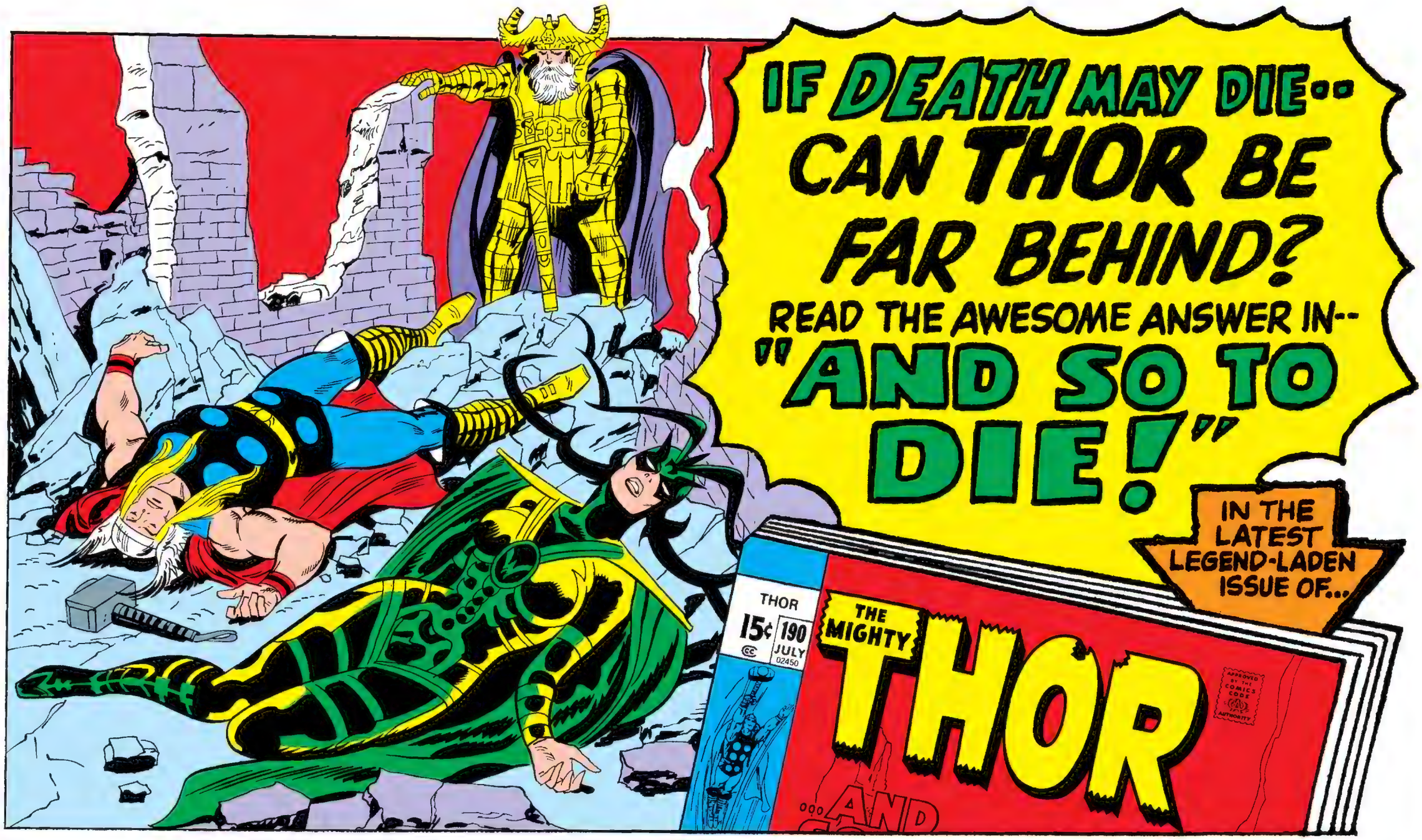
THOR SPECIAL
25¢
3
JAN
TWICE AS MANY PAGES! TWICE AS MANY THRILLS!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
KING-SIZE SPECIAL!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE MIGHTY
THOR
THIS IS IT! THE SECRET OF THOR'S IDENTITY REVEALED! AND THEN---
ENTER THE GREY GARGOYLE!
LOOK OUT, THUNDER GOD... 'CAUSE THE AWESOME ABSORBING MAN IS WAITING IN THE WINGS!!

Cover from 1971's *The Mighty Thor Annual* #4
(reprinting *The Mighty Thor* #131-132 & *Journey Into Mystery* #113)

*The Mighty Thor* #188 house ad
(from June 1971 titles)



*The Mighty Thor* #190 house ad
(from August 1971 titles)



*The Mighty Thor* #185, page 3 original art
by John Buscema & Sam Grainger

THOR #185
3
"AND, O'ERSHADOWING ALL ELSE, THE AWESOME ODIN-SWORD DIDST THREATEN TO UNSHEATH--!"
IF YON BLADE SHOULD LEAVE ITS SCABBARD--'TWILL MEAN THE DAY OF RAGNAROK HATH COME!
'TWILL MEAN THE WORLD MUST END!
"THE OMENS WERE CLEAR! THE COSMOS WAS THREATENED--AS NE'ER BEFORE! 'TWAS THEN THAT ODIN SPAKE--"
I LEAVE THEE IN MY PLACE, MY SON--
WHILST I GO FORTH--TO PROBE THE WORLD BEYOND!
AND, IF I FALL--
THEN THOU SHALT FOLLOW AFTER ME!
THE SILENT ONE -- HE SEEKS TO FOLLOW ODIN!
KEEP THY DISTANCE, THUNDER GOD!
LET HIM GO WHERE HE WILT--FOR 'TIS HE WHO HOLDS THE KEY!
"AND SO THEY DID DEPART, WHILST I, WITH HEAVY HEART, REMAINED TO GUARD THE REALM!"
HE DARES INVADE THE UNKNOWN WORLD BEYOND---
IN COMPANY OF THE SILENT ONE--WHOSE POWER, AND PURPOSE, ARE KNOWN TO NONE!
"BUT, I HAD LITTLE TIME TO BROOD--FOR WITH ODIN GONE--"
"THE TRAITOROUS LOKI LED HIS HORDES AGAINST THE REALM ETERNAL!"
"'TWAS A TIME FOR BATTLE, A TIME FOR VALOR--AND MY LADY SIF WAS EVER AT MY SIDE!"
WHO STRIKES AT THOR MUST STRIKE AT SIF!
3.
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Courtesy Heritage Auctions

*The Mighty Thor* #188, page 1 original art
by John Buscema & Jim Mooney

THOR 188 MA-/
FEB SCHED
1
THE MIGHTY THOR!
THE END OF INFINITY!
EVEN ALL-MIGHTY ODIN HAS FALLEN 'NEATH THE SPELL OF THE UNKNOWN INFINITY! AND NOW, AS THE ROYAL COURT OF ASGARD WATCHES ON THE GIANT COSMI-SCREEN, THE WORLD SEEMS TRULY--- DOOMED!
SEE? EVEN HIM WHO IS MY FATHER DOTH SERVE THE DREAD INFINITY!
THEY STRIKE THE PLANETS, ONE BY ONE--
AND NONE CAN STAND AGAINST THEM.
NOW THOR MUST TELL WHAT THOR HATH LEARNED..
THE SECRET OF INFINITY!
STAN LEE BY and JOHN BUSCEMA
INKING: JIM MOONEY
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

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Courtesy Heritage Auctions

# BIOGRAPHIES

## STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust out into the post-Depression wartime economy. Through family connections, he was able to land a job with Martin Goodman's comic-book publishing start-up, Timely Comics, as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so when his first professional writing job came, in the form of a humble two-page text story in *Captain America Comics* #3, he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

But the world of comics managed to keep Stan Lee constantly employed. His proficiency on the job got him the position of managing editor at an extremely young age. He graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories in *All-Winners*, *USA Comics*, and other Timely anthologies. His tenure in the '50s saw him expand the company (now called Atlas Comics) output to include more genre experimentation, with westerns, war, horror and crime comics.

All this activity was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists topped off by the formidable talents of Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to do something to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Stan figured he would co-opt the successful super-hero revival at competitor DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Stan's Marvel Age heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people, forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just like the average person might.

Stan's innovation sent shock waves through the comics industry, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold: unlike other fads of the time, it wasn't letting go. Under his direction, creations like Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Stan developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus exploding the story possibilities for the kids who became eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Stan also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads, and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Stan wrote virtually every comic that appeared from Marvel during the 1960s. But when he was promoted to Publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Stan has returned to write scripts for the odd single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. To this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

## JOHN BUSCEMA

Though known primarily for his long tenure as one of Marvel Comics' most prolific pencilers, John Buscema began his celebrated career at the age of twenty-one with Timely Comics. After Timely closed up its in-house bullpen and sent most freelancers chasing down new art assignments, John pursued comics work for a time before he bagged the comics scene altogether and went to work in advertising in 1958.

When he finally returned to comics, however, he did so with a vengeance. Stan Lee recruited him away from the field of advertising and quickly ensconced him into the upper ranks of Marvel artists. Picking up where *Avengers* mainstay Don Heck left off, "Big John" settled into a long run of his own, showcasing the exploits of Earth's Mightiest Heroes. The much-anticipated *Silver Surfer* series was launched with John at the helm, and top-shelf books like *Fantastic Four* and *Thor* were entrusted to his care after Jack Kirby left Marvel for DC Comics.

John's bold, muscular artwork commanded the comic book page with realistic figurework that represented the next evolutionary step in post-Kirby Marvel Comics style. The respect accorded him

within Marvel as an artist's artist was of such renown that he literally wrote the book on it, composing *How To Draw the Marvel Way*, the classic "how to" book in comic-book illustration.

He worked from the '70s through the '90s on nearly every title in the Marvel stable, including his personal favorite title *Conan the Barbarian* with Roy Thomas, providing steady work throughout his career. He retired from regular work in 1996, but returned every now and then to the comics scene until he passed away after a battle with cancer in 2002.

## GERRY CONWAY

In 1969, sixteen-year-old Gerry Conway was a teenager peddling short stories to DC and Marvel for their horror anthology books, and by 1976, Conway had worked his way up to the position of Marvel's Editor-in-Chief. In between, he logged a mindbogglingly prolific schedule as writer for both companies; for purposes of brevity, it might be easier to list the titles he did not write!

After establishing a pedigree with those *House of Secrets* and *Tower of Shadows* short stories, Gerry quickly latched on to a regular gig as writer of *Daredevil, Sub-Mariner, Iron Man,* and both entries in the *Amazing Adventures* anthology (Black Widow and the Inhumans.) He also began long associations with *Amazing Spider-Man* and *Thor,* picking up with the flagship Spider-Man title after Roy Thomas had left to begin his own stint as Marvel EIC, and taking the baton on *Thor* from none other than Stan Lee. He scripted both books for nearly fifty issues each, and in the process wrote some memorable tales, including one of the all-time classic Spider-Man stories, "The Death of Gwen Stacy." Cueing off his early interest in horror stories, Gerry took advantage of Marvel's burgeoning line of horror comics, co-creating *Werewolf By Night* and *Man-Thing,* as well as writing the first issue of the long-running *Tomb of Dracula*.

In 1976, he was handed the top job at Marvel, which he held for much of the year before transitioning to DC Comics. One of his first big assignments was writing the script for one of the first inter-company crossovers, *Superman vs. the Amazing Spider-Man.* Shortly thereafter, he began a long tenure on prime DC titles like *Superboy and the Legion of Super-Heroes, World's Finest* and *Wonder Woman*. He also co-created Firestorm with Al Milgrom in 1978, scribing all five issues of the short-lived '70s incarnation.

As the '80s dawned, he started a long run writing both key Batman titles, *Detective Comics* and *Batman,* and continued his long-term run on *Justice League of America,* a stint that began in earnest in 1978 and would end with the dismantling of the fabled JLA Detroit in 1986. During this era, he also revived Firestorm with artist Pat Broderick; this time the title found traction and Conway wrote the first 53 issues consecutively. A return to Marvel in the late '80s saw Conway tackling two of the three extant Spider-Man titles: *Spectacular Spider-Man* and *Web of Spider-Man*.

During this period of time, Conway was slowly asserting himself as a writer in film and television. His early '80s screenplay collaborations with Roy Thomas resulted in the animated film *Fire and Ice* and barbarian sequel *Conan the Destroyer*. By the late '80s, his opportunities in television writing had exploded, and he left comics to pursue his new vocation, writing for shows like *Matlock, Father Dowling Mysteries, Diagnosis: Murder* and *Law & Order*. His last work in comics was in 1993, writing the Topps Kirbyverse one-shot *Night Glider*.

Currently, Conway is still active in writing and producing for television, and resides in California with his wife and their child.

Biographical material researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-7

## THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

## THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-5
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOL. 1

## THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
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ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-2
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-3

THE MIGHTY
THOR
SEE: WORLDS WITHOUT END IN THE GRIP OF—
INFINITY!
SEE: THE GOD OF THUNDER, ALONE AND UNARMED, TRAPPED UPON THE WORLD BEYOND!

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